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ARAB TIMES

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Benazir in Tehran to start diplomatic offensive on Kashmir

TEHRAN, May 15, (Reuters) Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto prayed in an Iranian Muslim shrine today at the start of a diplomatic offensive to drum up support in her country's dispute with India over an uprising in Kashmir.

"We want peace," Benazir told the custodian of the shrine of the eighth Shi'ite Imam Reza in the northern city of Mashhad.

"We thank Iran for its strong support for Kashmir," she said.

Benazir, head and shoulders wrapped in the black "chador" worn by devout Muslim women in Iran, went to the shrine immediately after her arrival from Islamabad.

She later flew to Tehran where she received a red carpet welcome before meeting Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

"Nothing pleases us more than Iran emerging as a successful and powerful country in the region," Iranian television quoted Benazir as saying in talks with Rafsanjani.

"The unresolved state of the Afghan problem, the Jammu and Kashmir affair and the Iran-Iraq war are in the interest of colonialist and expansionist powers," Rafsanjani said.

The television said Benazir invited Rafsanjani to visit Pakistan.

Rafsanjani, for his part, said that problems like those of Afghanistan, Jammu and Kashmir and the Iran-Iraq war remained unresolved "because it is in the interests of colonialist and expansionist governments" to keep them simmering.

It said the two countries' foreign ministers and other officials also took part in the meeting in which Afghanistan and other issues of mutual interest were discussed.

Benazir's whistle-stop tour will take her to eight Islamic countries in nine days.

Pakistan plans to take its case over Kashmir to an Islamic foreign ministers conference in Cairo next month but first wants to galvanize support of nations that have so far been lukewarm.

"We have come to Iran with great hope," Benazir told the Mashhad shrine custodian Abbas Vaez Tabasi as thousands of Iranian women wearing black chadors chanted welcoming slogans outside a huge mosque adjacent to the shrine.

"We will pay for the people of Kashmir," Tapasi told Benazir.

Indian and Pakistani troops clashed again on the line dividing disputed Kashmir but both sides made conflicting claims about casualties today.

Pakistan army spokesman Brigadier Riaz Ullah said one Pakistani officer and one trooper were killed while "our troops believe that two of their soldiers were definitely killed."

India did not mention any casualties on its side but claimed to have wounded at least five Pakistanis.

President Bush, concerned about threats of war between India and Pakistan, is dispatching a high-level delegation to help mediate the conflict in Kashmir, the White House announced today.

Subcontinent Focus

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Continued on Page 6)

Surprise Manila move on bases

New treaty not ruled out

MANILA, May 15, (Agencies) Communist rebels claimed responsibility today for the weekend slaying of two American airmen and threatened more killings until all US armed forces members leave the country.

President Corason Aquino's government, meanwhile, formally told the United States today that the lease for the six US military bases in the Philippines expires in September 1991 and cannot be extended.

But US and Filipino officials said the announcement does not rule out a new accord on allowing the bases to remain in the country.

Some body to love

MANILA, May 15, (Reuters) A Philippine general has told his men to put on record who their real wives are, saying it confuses the military when more than one woman shows up to claim the body of a dead soldier.

"The problem here is that we used to reckon that the one who wails the loudest ought to be the legitimate wife," said General Pantaleon Dumalo.

"Lately, however, mistresses have been outgunning the real wives."

Dumalo, chief investigator of the paramilitary constabulary, told soldiers in Iloilo province yesterday to straighten out their personnel forms specifying their beneficiaries.



Soviet models

Soviet models (left to right) Irana Belaya and Natali Lubagia, model traditional styled clothing designed in Leningrad for the first ever fashion show at the Soviet embassy in London. (Reuters wirephoto)

Egypt, Soviet ties normalise

Gorbachev, Mubarak sign accord

MOSCOW, May 15, (Agencies) Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev today signed a declaration condemning the settlement of Soviet Jews in Israel's occupied territories.

In an historic visit that ended 18 years of strained relations, Mubarak met Gorbachev for 90 minutes in the Kremlin before the two leaders signed the document.

It said Palestinians should choose their own destiny and described the Israeli occupation of east Jerusalem as illegal and a dangerous obstacle to peace.



Gorbachev shakes hands with Mubarak after a signing ceremony in the Kremlin yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Philippines Focus

— Page 13 —

24 die in Lebanon

Call for blood

BEIRUT, May 15, (AP) Rival Christian forces maintained a savage bombardment of their enclave today despite a ceasefire call by the church, while Muslim factions fought street battles in west Beirut. Police said 24 people were killed and 61 wounded.

Eighteen people were killed and 46 wounded in the shelling duels that raged without letup for a seventh straight day between troops of Gen Michel Aoun and Samir Geagea's Lebanese Forces militiamen in burning east Beirut and the surrounding hinterland, according to police.

They said among the casualties were two Indians injured in east Beirut's residential district of Ashrafieh, Geagea's main stronghold in the capital. Police did not give their names.

The overall casualty toll to 1,022 dead and 2,730 wounded since the inconclusive battle for mastery of the 310 square mile (800 square km) Christian enclave broke out Jan 30.

Police said six others were killed and 15 wounded in gunbattles between Shiite Muslim Hezbollah and Aoun and around West Beirut's old Jewish district of Wadi Abu Jamil.

Police said bearded Hezbollah fighters, attempting to expel Aoun militiamen from the low-income Wadi Abu Jamil, tossed grenades and fired 106mm recoilless guns mounted on jeeps. Aoun gunmen thwarted the attacks, firing armour-piercing rockets.

The hostilities, which broke out at midnight (2100 GMT Monday) stopped at midmorning, when Syrian troops in charge of west Beirut's security deployed in the Wadi, long abandoned by its original Jewish inhabitants, and separated the combatants.

Shoppers removed glass shards and debris of their shattered shutters from narrow alleyways under the watchful eyes of helmeted Syrian troops toting automatic rifles and shoulder-fired rocket launchers.

"Go ahead and take pictures," cried a veiled woman as photographers reached the scene of the fighting.

In the Christian sector, fires blazed out of control in apartment buildings in several residential neighbourhoods of east Beirut and in villages in the highlands of Kesrouan and pinewoods of the Metn mountains, northeast of the capital.

UK experts confirm

Frankfurt seizure linked to Iraqi gun

FRANKFURT, May 15, (Agencies) British experts have confirmed that 17 crates seized at Frankfurt airport contained components of a "super-gun" which Iraq allegedly planned to build, a customs spokesman said today.

The spokesman for the Frankfurt customs-search office said that two British experts assisting in investigations found that the parts were compatible with those in similar shipment seized in London recently.

He said the parts originated from Switzerland and Belgium and were destined for Iraq.

In the last month, officials in Britain, Italy, Turkey and Greece discovered steel sections which they said were "supposed to be components of the 40-metre (130-foot) 'super-gun' with a range of several hundred miles, which Iraq is allegedly planning to manufacture."

The Iraqi government rejected the claims and asserted the parts were for a petrochemical plant.

The spokesman said the 37-ton shipments seized at Frankfurt airport in late April contained hydraulic cylinders and pre-stressed concrete slabs.

Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz told a news conference in Rome that allegations Iraq was trying to build a giant cannon to bombard its enemies were "a huge lie" orchestrated by Israel.

Swiss authorities today seized an Iraq-bound shipment of machine components and said they are checking whether there is any link with the "super-gun" affair.

Britain's ambassador to Iraq recalled in March in protest at the exhumation of British-based journalist Faraz Bazraf, will return to Baghdad this week, the foreign official said today.

Protests at Baltics campaigns

14 more pull out

VILNIUS, USSR, May 15, (AP) Demonstrators tore down Estonia's flag and thousands of Soviet soldiers tried to break into the Latvian Parliament today in protests against the Baltic republics' independence campaign.

Lithuanian President Vyantas Landsbergis, in a radio interview broadcasted from Moscow for an arms summit, appealed to the Americans to raise the issue of Baltic independence with Soviet leaders.

A pre-Moscow crowd in the Estonian capital of Tallinn advanced on the 14th century Toompea Palace and tore down the republic's blue, white and black flag, which was raised last week when lawmakers voted for independence, witnesses said.

The anti-independence protesters briefly raised the Soviet Union's red hammer-and-sickle flag over the legislature.

But Estonian Prime Minister Edgar Savisaar delivered a live radio address urging pro-independence forces to converge on the palace. They hoisted his call and restored the Estonian flag, the witnesses said.

Commission faults FAA

A presidential commission investigating the Pan Am 103 bombing recommended on Tuesday major reform of the nation's aviation security and both pre-emptive and retaliatory military strikes against terrorists when appropriate.

Full Report Page 2

Polls in schools

By Lina Al Khalafawi and Diana Abou Haidar

ELECTIONS for the 50 seats of the National Council will take place at 50 air-conditioned elementary and intermediate schools on June 10.

These schools will house 25 main committees and 100 secondary ones distributed according to the number of voters in each constituency. Main committees will count votes cast at ballot boxes as well as at secondary ones. Names of schools and heads and members of these committees will be announced on Friday.

Meanwhile 14 more candidates withdrew from the race on Monday and Tuesday dropping the number of hopefuls to 530.

Following are their names and constituencies:

Anwar Abdulla Al Hasawi — Mirqab, Nabeel Ahmed Al Sinan — Mirqab, Yousef Ahmed Al Raqem — Qad-Khmal Al Essa — Faiha, Othman Mohamed Al Rouqai — Omariya, Mansour Shafiq Al Azemi — Om Al Haiman, Abdul Aziz Salem Al Abdul Jader — Khaldiya, Mbarak Eid Al Azemi — Salmiya, Mhaimeed Hamdan Al Otaibi — Riqqa, Mohsen Omar Al Otaibi — Riqqa, Fahed Al Dabagh Al Azemi — Om Al Haiman, Jassent Mohamed Al Anboui — Faiha, Bader Yousef Al Majed — Faiha.

Air crash kills 4

ABU DHABI, May 15, (AP) A light Cessna aircraft taking off from Abu Dhabi International airport for a aerial survey task crashed today in a ball of flame, killing its four occupants, airport sources said.

The plane apparently suffered engine failure and crashed only seconds after it took off.

Baker in Moscow

To prepare summit

MOSCOW, May 15, (AP) US Secretary of State James Baker arrived yesterday to try to overcome deep differences with the Soviets over a treaty reducing superpower stockpiles of strategic nuclear weapons.

Two of Baker's senior aides said that at least four key arms-control issues remained unresolved two weeks before Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and US President George Bush are scheduled to meet in Washington.

The biggest accord being negotiated for a possible signing at the summit — a treaty, declaration of the superpowers' commitment to reduce long-range nuclear missiles, bombers and submarines — is far from complete.

Qat causes high divorce

NAIROBI, May 15, (Reuters) Excessive chewing of the drug Qat is the main cause of the high divorce rate in northeast Kenya, the Kenyan daily The Nation said yesterday.

It quoted provincial commissioner Amos Bore as telling a seminar on population issues that local women frequently complained that the habit — widespread in Northeast Africa and the Arabian peninsula — caused impotence and neurosis.

The hilly Igembe region of Kenya's eastern Meru district is reputed to grow the best Qat, known locally as "miraa" in Africa.



Abdul Aziz Al Alyan with his daughter

Candidates Speak

CONTESTING from the Faiha constituency, Abdul Aziz Al Alyan has said that in his campaign he will be convincing voters to take part in the forthcoming elections for the interim National Council and choose the best qualified candidates.

Talking to Arab Times, Al Alyan stressed that there should be no misunderstanding for working towards one end: reviving the Parliament.

The constitution won't be changed but regulations for the National Assembly sessions are badly needed, he opined.

"We have to live up to our concept of the one family that does not allow its differences to be exposed and exploited by strangers," said Al Alyan who has a BA degree in political science and journalism.

Kentucky Fried Chicken

Surprise of the 90's

Pan Am panel seeks military strikes on terrorists

WASHINGTON, May 15, (AP) The United States should consider military strikes against air terrorists and conduct covert operations if direct action is not possible, a presidential commission investigating the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 recommended today.

The seven-member commission also called for notification of passengers when there is a credible bomb threat. And it recommended major changes in the Federal Aviation Administration's security operations.

"The US Civil Aviation security system is seriously flawed and has failed to provide the proper level of protection for the travelling public," the report said. "This system needs major reform."

The report also called for a halt to the FAA's order for widespread installation of plastic

explosive detection devices, saying the machines likely would not have detected the bomb that blew up Flight 103.

The commission called the FAA an agency that simply reacts to disasters and doesn't do enough to prevent them.

The seven-member panel spent nine months investigating the Dec 21, 1988, bombing, which killed all 259 people aboard the jetliner and 11 people on the ground in Lockerbie, Scotland. The panel's budget was \$1 million.

Despite the commission's sharp criticism of government efforts, FAA administrator James Busey said he welcomed the report. Busey said an FAA group would meet with the independent commission's staff to "implement those recommendations that meet the FAA's one essential criterion: to

help eradicate airline terrorism.

"The commission's recommendations are a welcome contribution to our efforts of the last year to enhance aviation security and to attack the global threat of terrorism in our skies," Busey said.

Members of the commission, which included four members of Congress and two former military figures, handed a copy of the report to President George Bush and victims' family members this morning.

"The destruction of Flight 103 may well have been preventable," the report said. But it said "it is impossible to say whether the failure of any specific security procedure was directly related to the sabotage of the flight."

"The United States should pursue a more

vigorous counter-terrorism policy, particularly with respect to nations sponsoring terrorists," the report said.

The commission recommended planning, training and equipping the military for "direct, pre-emptive or retaliatory military actions against known terrorist hideouts in countries that sanction them."

It also called for public support of actions to punish terrorists.

"National will — and the moral courage to use it — is the ultimate means to defeat terrorism," the report said.

But in London, the head of a group representing families of British victims of the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 said today the families oppose military retaliation for terrorist attacks.



Bush accepts the report on the Lockerbie bombing of Pan Am airliner. (Reuters wirephoto)

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AZT delays development of HIV: The onset of Aids in people with mild infections of the HIV virus can be delayed with early treatment of AZT and makes it "almost a whole new drug," a leading researcher said.

A study released on Monday in yesterday's issue of the *Annals of Internal Medicine* said people who took AZT were more than twice as likely not to develop Aids or Aids-related complex than those who received a placebo.

That study and a similar one last month in the *New England Journal of Medicine* prompted the Federal Food and Drug Administration in March to allow physicians to prescribe the drug for patients with the virus who have not developed symptoms of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome. (AP)

Tunisian police arrest 17: Tunisian police arrested 17 Islamic fundamentalists during a clash in the Tunis suburb of Ibn Khaldoun, Islamic sources said yesterday.

The disturbances on Monday night, the second in three days, began in front of a mosque after evening prayers. No casualties were reported. Demonstrators were protesting the arrest of their colleagues during a previous incident on Saturday night when police dispersed a crowd with tear-gas. (Reuters)

Kabul to name new cabinet: The Afghan government, enjoying a rare day without a rebel rocket attack on its capital, Kabul, said yesterday it would soon announce a new cabinet.

In the next few days a new cabinet will be formed," a government official told reporters.

Just over a week ago Afghan President Najibullah named provincial governor Afzal Haq Khalilqiyar as prime minister of his Soviet-backed government, which has been embroiled in civil war with rebels supported mainly by the United States and neighbouring Pakistan for nearly 12 years. (Reuters)

Sudan defends execution: A senior Sudanese official yesterday defended the execution of 28 officers within a day of an attempted coup and denied that a group of young officers had recently protested about sending the men to the firing squad.

"They were caught red-handed and the courts (military tribunals) did not need a long time to establish that there was a rebellion," said Nasrudin Idris, head of the office of junta strongman Omar Hassan Al Bashir. (Reuters)

Sudan troops mutiny: Rebels in southern Sudan said yesterday troops in a government-held town had mutinied over an order to move further south.

"Commander-in-Chief (John Garang) has received a message from government troops in Kosti saying they are not going to Mutini as ordered by their superiors in Khartoum," the Sudan People's Liberation army (SPLA) radio announced.

The broadcast, monitored in Nairobi, said the soldiers pledged they would not march to Kosti, a garrison town, 280 km (185 miles) south of the capital Khartoum. The town was taken by the rebels last Thursday. (Reuters)

Muslims issue statement: The Sri Lanka Muslim Congress (SLMC) issued a statement on Monday saying it will consider whether to support the repealing of the sixth amendment to the island's constitution or not only after the policy of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) on the Muslims in the north-east is known.

The SLMC has its power-base in the eastern province of the island where a large number of Muslims live. (Kuna)

CIA chief praise Gorbachev: Former CIA director William Colby stepped off the overnight train from Leningrad yesterday and promptly gave Mikhail Gorbachev high marks for handling East-West negotiations and the Baltic crisis.

"I have great respect for his political skills," Colby said. "I don't think he is a great ideologue with a specific vision for the Soviet Union, but he is masterful at his way of working through problems. I think that is what he is doing and I wish him all the success in the world."

Colby, 70, who will participate in a two-day panel by New York University's Centre for War, Peace and the news media, said Gorbachev's dilemma will be in handling the unemployment and inflation his economic reforms will spawn. (UPI)

Gorbachev to visit Canada: Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev will visit Canada on May 29 and 30 to discuss a broad range of international issues with Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, the prime minister's office said yesterday.

Gorbachev's visit to Ottawa precedes his summit with US President George Bush in Washington from May 30 to June 3.

The leaders will discuss developments in Eastern Europe, East-West relations, international economic issues, domestic Soviet issues and bilateral relations. Mulroney's office said.

Gorbachev, who will be accompanied by his wife, Raisa, accepted an invitation to visit Canada during Mulroney's trip to Moscow in November. (Reuters)

Clirides rejects new unity talks: Veteran Greek-Cypriot politician Glafkos Clirides said yesterday he saw no point in continuing unity talks with Turkish-Cypriots until there was common ground for negotiations.

Clirides, who heads the largest party on Cyprus, the rightist Democratic Rally, said Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş had "lost interest" in solving the Cyprus problem.

"I have now come to the conclusion that another dialogue at this time would be a mistake... and lead to more deadlock," he told a foreign correspondents' luncheon. (Reuters)

Cat killer gets 5 years jail: An unemployed law school graduate convicted of torturing and killing 15 cats was sentenced to five years in prison and 10 years' probation and animal rights activists were "ecstatic" that he will serve time.

Mitchell M. Munoz pleaded guilty in Dekalb county state court on Monday to 15 charges he tortured and killed 77 cats, most of them acquired through three-kitten newspaper advertisements. (UPI)

Bombs hits Chilean capital: A wave of at least ten bomb blasts rocked the Chilean capital late Monday night, damaging public buildings, the US consulate, the Mormon Temple, and other businesses, police said.

A guard at the US consulate in downtown Santiago was injured with a concussion from the blast that exploded inside the building, police said.

Six new drug charges

Barry pleads innocent

WASHINGTON, May 15, (A) Mayor Marion Barry pleaded innocent today to six new drug charges alleging he used cocaine over a five-year period.

"I feel fantastic today. I got a great defence team," Barry said outside the courthouse after entering his plea.

Barry lawyer R. Kenneth Mundy told US district court judge Thomas Penfield Jackson that "we enter a plea of not guilty" to a 14-count indictment handed up last Thursday against the mayor.

The new charges accuse Barry of five misdemeanor counts of cocaine possession and one misdemeanor count of conspiracy. The Mayor took drugs as far back as 1984, the new indictment alleges.

Barry previously pleaded innocent to eight charges brought Feb 15 alleging that he lied to a federal grand jury and possessed cocaine on five occasions. The new indictment includes all 14 charges.

Barry told reporters he would have no further comments on the charges today.

US attorney Jay B. Stephens said the government was prepared to go to trial on June 4 as scheduled.

The new charges accuse Barry of five misdemeanor counts of cocaine possession and one misdemeanor count of conspiracy. The mayor took drugs as far back as 1984, the new indictment alleges.

The US attorney's office said last week it was ready to go to trial June 4 on all 14 charges.

هكذا من الأصل

Joining party to get elected

TOKYO, May 15, (AP): There are socialists in Japanese politics today who don't believe in socialism. They believe in their own causes, and in getting elected.

Today that, they are joining the Socialist Party and changing it from a radical, heavily ideological party unlikely to win power into a varied group of reformers with a far better chance against the governing Liberal Democrats.

The new members are lawyers, physicians, college professors, journalists and housewives.

An example is Tomiko Okazaki, a former television broadcaster who is one of 59 rookie Socialist Party members elected to the lower house of Parliament in February. The party increased its strength in the 512-seat chamber, where the powerlies, from 83 to 139.

"I was never a Socialist and I have no ideological background at all," said Ms Okazaki, 46. "I joined the party to get elected and to become a political who can protect women's interests."

Takako Doi, popular leader of the nation's largest opposition party, told the national convention in early April: "We need to promote a broad range of reforms now to make our party credible for taking over the government. If we fail to do so now, we may end up permanently in the opposition camp."

For years, internal ideological disputes hampered socialist efforts to break the hold on power by the Conservative, pro-business Liberal Democrats, who have governed Japan since the party was formed in 1955.

Since Ms Doi became the first woman leader of a major Japanese party in 1986, the Socialists have gradually muted intramural disagreements and shifted from ideology to a more populist style.

In July 1989, the Socialists nearly doubled their strength in the 252-seat upper house, from 39 to 73, and the Liberal Democrats lost their majority for the first time.

The governing party retained control in the February elections for the lower house by winning 275 seats, but the strong socialist gains demonstrated that the opposition party is a growing challenge.

Analysts said the socialists benefited from Ms Doi's popularity and a dual Liberal Democratic handicap: an influence-buying scandal that reached the top levels of the establishment and an unpopular sales tax.

Tadatoshi Akiba, a former geometry professor at Tufts University in the United States, said Ms Doi asked him last year to join the party and run for Parliament.

"I never thought about becoming a politician, nor was I ever interested in socialism before," the 47-year-old legislator said. "I decided to run for Parliament because I thought I can change the Socialist Party and Japan's politics from inside."

Asked what changes he wants in the party, he said it was changing already "because it endorsed non-socialists like me in the election."

At its convention in April, the party took the call for a Socialist revolution out of its constitution. Some opposition was expressed by leftist factions, but a comfortable majority supported eliminating the clause.

"Our key...right now is to take control of the government," Tsuruo Yamaguchi, the party secretary-general, said in an interview. "I think most party members are willing to sacrifice their stubborn ideological positions for the sake of gaining control of the government."

Teachers on strike

BANGKOK, May 15, (Reuters): Nearly 4,000 teachers in southern Thailand went on strike today demanding the government make greater efforts to free a colleague kidnapped by Muslim separatists, a union leader said.

Preecha Sae Lim, 33, was seized on May 6 by guerrillas who have demanded 200,000 bahts (\$8,000) in ransom.

The strike, affecting 77,000 students, 80 per cent of the Muslim, in 360 schools in Narathiwat province, will continue until Preecha is released, union leader Prom Chantaratra said.

Government amnesties have largely defused the conflict, and officials say the remaining fighters are merely bandits.

Nepal king bows to popular demand

Constitutional panel scrapped; agrees to share power

KATHMANDU, May 15, (Reuters): Nepal's King Birendra, bowing to popular demand today, scrapped a controversial panel that had threatened the Himalayan kingdom's move towards democracy and agreed to share power with its interim government.

Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, interim prime minister, met the king at the royal palace and later issued two statements saying Birendra had dissolved a seven-member constitutional commission he named last Friday without consulting the government, and that he would share powers with Bhattarai.

The agreement ended a deadlock over the panel which had threatened the authority of a coalition government installed last month after violent pro-democracy protests.

"I am very happy with the result. It must solve the present crisis," a beaming Bhattarai told reporters after briefing the cabinet on his nearly two-hour meeting with the king.

"There are no reservations in the cabinet. As a matter of fact the cabinet is very happy," he said.

A Western diplomat said the accord would help the government overhaul the administrative machinery and make many changes.

The United Left Front, a junior coalition partner with Bhattarai's Nepali Congress Party, had threatened new street protests at what it called the king's "revivalist" designs to keep power and not move towards constitutional monarchy.

One statement issued by Bhattarai said the king had dissolved the constitutional panel and called on the prime minister to recommend a new one "to facilitate the interim government's task to hold general elections for the formation of a duly elected government on the basis of a new constitution."

Bhattarai said he would recommend formation of a new constitution panel at the weekend or early next month.

Another statement said the king had asked Bhattarai to act appropriately on any repeals, dissolutions or amendments of constitutional provisions and laws necessary for smooth running of the interim government and the maintenance of law and order.

Hours before the meeting the panel's chairman Bishwanath Upadhyay had quit, saying the commission had become ineffective because of opposition from political parties.

Political parties had seen Birendra's naming of the commission as an attempt to hold on to his authority, diplomats and analysts said.

The Nepali Congress and communists jointly launched the campaign for democracy on Feb 18.

At one stage of the pro-democracy demonstrations the survival of the crown appeared to be in danger. Scores of people were killed when students tried to march on the royal palace on April 6.

Within days, the 45-year-old king abolished the partyless panchayat (council) system set up in 1960, legalised political parties and swore in an interim coalition government.

US arms

China cancels \$502.1m deal

WASHINGTON, May 15, (UPI): China cancelled a \$502.1 million arms deal with the United States to modernise 55 Chinese F-8 fighter jets, the largest of the weapons pacts signed by the two countries in the 1980s, the Pentagon said today.

Navy Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lundquist, a Pentagon spokesman, said he did not know why the Chinese cancelled the programme known as "Peace Pearl", which was in the development stage and being worked on by the Grumman Corp. of Bethpage, N.Y.

The programme was intended to upgrade the aging F-8S with new electronics, navigation and radar equipment, he said.



Sheikh Zayed in Tokyo

UAE President Sheikh Zayed (left) clink glasses with Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and (right) toasts with Emperor Akihito during dinner in Tokyo. (Reuters wirephoto)

N. Korea to return bodies of US soldiers missing since Korean war

TOKYO, May 15, (UPI): North Korea will return to the United States the remains of five US soldiers listed as missing since the Korean war of 1950-53, the official North Korea news agency and press reports said yesterday.

"The Democratic People's Republic of Korea will hand over some unearched remains of US soldiers to the US side through US Congressmen at Panmunjom at 11 am May 28," said the official (North) Korean Central News Agency in yesterday dispatch monitored in Tokyo.

The dispatch did not say how many bodies would be returned, but a Japanese news agency, Jiji Press, said the North Koreans offered last month to return the remains of five US soldiers in talks with US diplomats in Beijing.

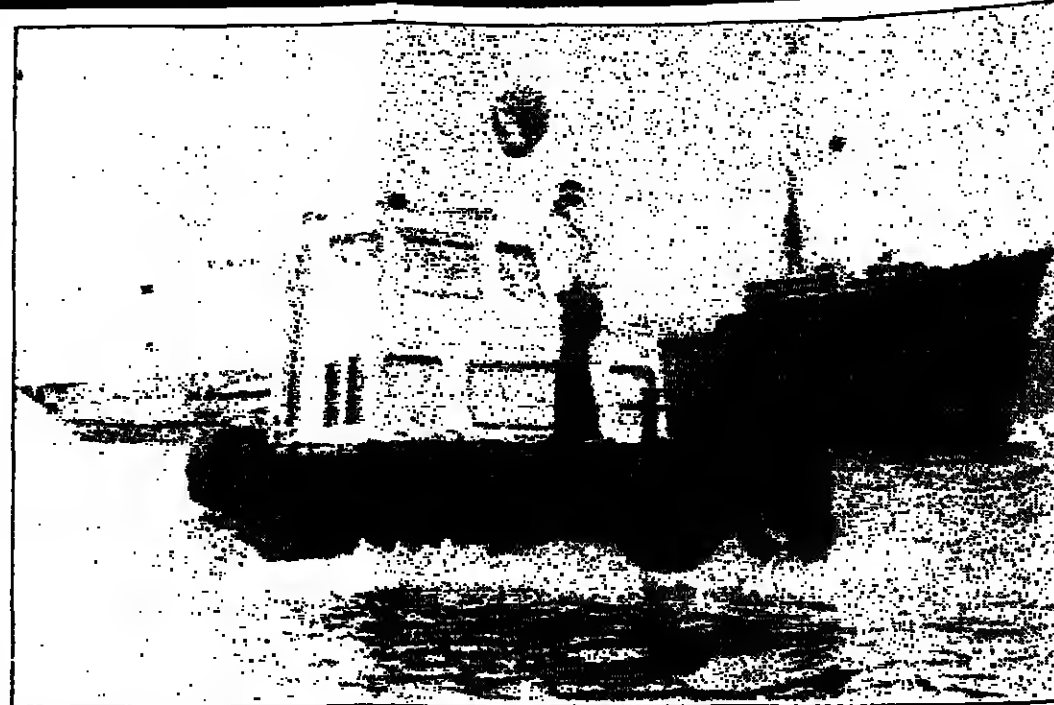
"This step is in accord with the consistent position of the North Korean government for a humanitarian solution of the problem of the remains of US soldiers listed missing during the Korean war," said the brief, two

paragraph statement issued from the capital of Pyongyang.

The US Forces Korea listed 389 US servicemen as missing in action from the three-year war as of 1984.

North Korea and the United States do not maintain diplomatic relations.

Korea, which had been annexed by Japan from 1910 to 1945, was divided at the end of World War II into Soviet-backed North and US-backed South at the 38th parallel.



Goddess of Democracy on guard

A marine police officer aboard a launch maintains a high level of security surrounding the radio ship Goddess of Democracy in Keelung, northern Taiwan, port yesterday. The ship was taking on fuel and expected to leave in the next few days. (Reuters wirephoto)

Amnesty to ask China

Where are the prisoners?

LONDON, May 15, (Kuna): Amnesty International was calling Wednesday on the Chinese government to reveal what has happened to the thousands of unnamed prisoners arrested since the crackdown on the pro-democracy movement last June.

The group also revealed that it has sent Prime Minister Li Peng a list of more than 650 prisoners it has identified.

The names of those prisoners in China, ever compiled by the London-based human rights organisation.

It is not known where most of the prisoners are being held, or whether they have been charged, tried

or sentenced, Amnesty said in a statement.

The Chinese authorities have said the arrests were an internal matter, revealing only that about 6,000 people were arrested, and that several hundred of those have been released.

The group argued that various sources estimated that the true number of arrests to be in the tens of thousands.

Some of those arrested have been tried and sentenced, but only a small number of those cases have been reported, Amnesty added.

Many of those named in Amnesty's list are considered prisoners of conscience, arrested solely "for the peaceful exercise of their rights."

Seoul 'week of protests'

Kwangju anniversary

SEOUL, May 15, (AP): Radical students today declared "a week of protests" to mark a 1980 anti-government civil uprising, and fought with police in three cities, burning rocks and firebombs, news reports said.

The Yonhap news agency said about 6,000 students joined in the protests in Seoul and the southern cities of Kwangju and Chonju.

There were no reports of injuries or arrests, the South Korea news agency said.

The National Council of Student Representatives, a nation-wide radical student group, designated the week starting today as a period for anti-government struggle to mark the 1980 uprising in Kwangju.

The council, which has led many violent anti-government demonstrations, said it would organise nation-wide protest rallies on Friday, the anniversary of the uprising.

"Punish (President) Roh Tae-woo," the protesters shouted as they fought today with riot police firing tear-gas, according to Yonhap.

By official count, some 200 people were killed and more than 1,500 others injured when the military crushed the 10-day Kwangju uprising, the worst in modern South Korean history. Dissidents claim the death toll

was much higher.

Radical students and dissidents usually mark the Kwangju anniversary with anti-government protests.

In Seoul, about 2,000 radical students held rallies or clashed with riot police on at least nine campuses. They demanded the ouster of Roh's government.

In Kwangju, an opposition stronghold 250 kilometres (156 miles) south of Seoul, about 3,500 students threw rocks and firebombs at police in clashes that lasted for several hours around four schools, Yonhap said.

"Punish the criminals of the Kwangju massacre," the protesters shouted, according to Yonhap.

In Chonju, another opposition stronghold, about 500 students fought with police, Yonhap said. The students vowed to continue their protests to mark the Kwangju anniversary, it said.

Roh was one of several army generals in charge of the government, which at the time had imposed martial law on South Korea, when tens of thousands of Kwangju citizens revolted May 18, 1980, demanding faster democratic reforms.

The military crushed the uprising 10 days later.

7 held on espionage charges in China

BEIJING, May 15, (UPI): Chinese counter-intelligence agents have arrested seven people, for allegedly spying for Taiwan, charging they attempted to incite political unrest, the official Xinhua news agency reported today.

Xinhua reported that a five-member "Taiwan spy ring" was broken up recently by the state security department in south China's Guangxi province. State security agencies handle intelligence and counter-intelligence affairs.

Two of the five arrested, identified as Zhou Guoqiang, 26, and Chen Hong, "joined a spy organisation" of the ruling nationalist Chinese on Taiwan in 1989.

"After training, they were ordered to return to the mainland and try to find and make contacts with underground organisations, instigating turmoil," Xinhua said.

When the five were arrested, Xinhua said, agents recovered "espionage tools and evidence such as code books."

State security agents in eastern Tianjin and in Shandong province, meanwhile, have arrested two other people on similar charges.

Benazir in Iran

Continued from Page 1)

Firing across the border erupts almost daily, although much of it is ritualistic and few people get hurt.

The Press Trust of India said the latest shooting was caused by Pakistani soldiers building a new bunker — activity banned under the United Nations accord.

"This is usually the case for both sides. They say we are building a new bunker even if we are only preparing an old one," the Pakistani spokesman said.

A pro-Indian Kashmiri leader called today for immediate talks between the Indian government and Muslim militants to end a secessionist movement in Jammu and Kashmir state.

"Militants will never learn a lesson through bullets," Saifuddin Soz, National Conference Party leader and Muslim member of parliament, told a news conference.

"I would urge the prime minister to initiate a dialogue with the Kashmiri people immediately. The option for talks should not be replaced by bullets," Soz said.

Japan tour in June

Sihanouk plans

TOKYO, May 15, (UPI): Cambodian guerrilla leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk will visit Japan in early June, opening the possibility of a meeting with the Vietnamese-backed Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen to discuss an end to the 11-year conflict in Cambodia, a journalist close to Sihanouk said today.

Sihanouk, who was invited to Japan as the representative of three Cambodian rebel factions fighting to take control from the Vietnamese-supported government, will arrive in Tokyo June 3 on an Air China flight, said Bernard Krisher, a former Newsweek bureau chief in Tokyo who is collaborating with Sihanouk on a book.

The three Cambodian rebel factions stepped up their efforts to gain control of the country after Vietnam began the withdrawal of its troops in September.

The three factions, including two non-communist factions and the communist Khmer Rouge, have made little progress on the battlefield and nearly 90 per cent of Cambodia remains in the control of Hun Sen's government.

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S. Korea wants Japan apology

TOKYO, May 15, (UPI): Japan and South Korea clashed today on the emotional issue of Japan's need to apologise for its 1910-1945 colonisation of South Korea, but agreed that the conflict should not stop South Korean President Roh Tae-woo from visiting Tokyo next week.

A senior Japanese politician touched off a fury in South Korea when he said the Japanese did not need "to prostrate ourselves or bow down and kneel" by going so far as to have Emperor Akihito apologise to Roh for Japan's past behaviour.

The issue of Japan's forced annexation of South Korea has stood in the way of friendly relations between the two Asian economic powers since the end of World War II.

In 1984, Emperor Hirohito offered a vague apology for the often brutal Japanese colonisation during a visit by South Korean President Chun Doo-hwan, the first Korean leader to travel to Tokyo since the war.

South Korean officials have said Hirohito's indirect apology was not enough and Akihito should make a clear apology so the nations can put the issue behind them.

A faction within Japan's ruling party insists the issue was addressed by Hirohito and should be forgotten. They argue that any further apology to Korea will only lead to similar demands from other Asian nations.

South Korean government sources in Seoul said Roh is not expected to cancel his trip over the issue but may express his displeasure in his remarks at a state dinner hosted by Emperor Akihito.

Roh will visit Tokyo for three days beginning May 24 and Akihito was reportedly preparing to make a deeper apology last week. But the government now says it would be inappropriate for Akihito to apologise because under the constitution he should not be involved in political matters.

"It is inadvisable to put the emperor into political situation," said Ichiro Ozawa, the secretary general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

Bai Hua faces ostracism

Chinese writer remains undeterred

SHANGHAI, China, May 15, (AP): Bai Hua, one of China's best known writers, has survived persecution and public condemnation in the past. Now, he's facing unofficial ostracism, and he's still undeterred.

Bai says he holds out little hope that his plays can be published or performed in the current political atmosphere inspired by a communist opposition against "bourgeois" art and literature.

Nonetheless the 60-year-old writer said it is too late now for him to cease his work.

"Writing is my occupation. I should write. Only time can decide whether a work is good or bad," he said in an interview at the Shanghai Writers' Association.

The great classics of Chinese literature "were not written after receiving instructions," he told a reporter. "They were original ideas."

Bai said he will not write differently because of the current politics.

"It is meaningless for me to write rubbish," he said.

Nonetheless, he and other artists are holding off now on presenting their works to avoid trouble, a year after the military suppression of China's pro-democracy movement.

An unofficial campaign against artists is part of a general return to ideological orthodoxy following the student-led popular movement, which pressed for liberalisation in China.

Communist Party chiefs have criticised the artists harshly, saying they have become tainted by "bourgeois liberalisation," or Western ideas.

The leaders also revived a 1942 Mao Tse-tung speech in which he said art and literature must be a "component part of the whole revolutionary machine."

At a recent forum, representatives of the official Chinese Writers' Association criticised advocates of "pure literature" for divorcing

themselves from the masses and socialist modernisation.

They called for Marxism and Mao Tse-tung thought to be given the leading role in all works of art and condemned symbolism and other literary techniques as incomprehensible to ordinary Chinese.

Bai, a People's Liberation Army playwright until 1985, is a veteran of such campaigns. He was branded a "rightist" and persecuted during Mao's 1957 crackdown on outspoken intellectuals. Again silenced during the 1966-76 cultural revolution, he was not rehabilitated until the late 1970s.

Bai was singled out again in 1981 when the official press, reportedly on orders of senior leader Deng Xiaoping, condemned his play "Bitter Love" as a blasphemy against the Communist Party.

The play depicts a patriotic painter who is persecuted during the cultural revolution and, in a death scene on a snow-covered field, utters the words: "I love the motherland, but does the motherland love me?"

Bai was accused of being "antagonistic to the party and the people" and forced to write a self-criticism.

Today, he says the attacks were misguided because the protagonist was speaking only of the Chinese nation under the cultural revolution. "I think the motherland is eternal," he said.

He was also among the numerous writers censured in a 1985 campaign against "spiritual pollution."

Bai spent five months in the United States in 1988 and 1989, lecturing at 20 universities. He returned last May to join the pro-democracy rallies in Shanghai and to sign a petition calling on the students and the government to refrain from violence.

Gorby elected, gets only 61pc

MOSCOW, May 15. (Reuters): Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev was elected as a delegate to the Communist Party's forthcoming Congress but only 61 per cent of communists in a Moscow district voted for him, a party official said today.

Valery Zuhko, a member of the electoral commission in Frunzensky district, said Gorbachev secured 61.1 per cent to 36 per cent for Valery Baranov, a factory official who supports the radical Democratic Platform group within the party.

He told Reuters by telephone 2,900 people took part in the ballot, one of many being coaxed over long periods of time to select delegates throughout the country.

"I think that the result of the vote reflects the real situation not only in the party but in the country as well," he said.

The Congress, from July 3, is due to overhaul the structures and composition of the party following its decision earlier this year to abandon its monopoly on power.

Gorbachev, his popularity seriously eroded by discontent over declining living standards, was jeered at a May Day rally by demonstrators saying he was pursuing failed policies.

He has come under increased pressure from the Democratic Platform to adopt faster and more comprehensive political and social reforms.

The party leadership last month issued an open letter virtually ordering the Platform's followers to alter their policies or leave the party.

The independent news agency Interfax quoted a member of the Platform, Vladimir Lyusenko, as saying that Gorbachev's margin of victory was "proof of the growing support of the Democratic Platform."

He said that year ago Gorbachev would have received 100 per cent backing within the party.

When he was elected executive President by the Soviet Parliament last month, 1,329 deputies voted for Gorbachev and 495 against.

Both radicals and conservatives blame him and his reforms for the country's current difficulties and rising tensions.

Radical Soviet politician Boris Yeltsin said yesterday Gorbachev was seeking to discredit him and prevent him being elected president of the giant Russian federation.

Yeltsin, re-emerging as a major figure on the Soviet political stage after weeks of travel abroad, told a packed audience of Moscow intellectuals Gorbachev was taking a tougher line on dissent "because he fears losing power."

And in a wide-ranging critique of Kremlin policies, the former junior member of the Communist Party's politburo called for the resignation of Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov's government and condemned Moscow's economic blockade of rebel Lithuania.

Yeltsin, 59, said Gorbachev had called an unexpected meeting at the weekend with newly-elected deputies to the Russian federation parliament "at which he put pressure on them not to vote for me and sought to discredit me."

He said the Soviet President had alleged that Yeltsin had gone to Leningrad recently for talks with radical local politicians "to meet in secret and plot a counter-revolution."

Jovic takes over

BELGRADE, May 15. (Reuters): Serbian politician Boris Jovic became Yugoslav president by annual rotation today and pledged to prevent the deeply divided country from falling apart.

Jovic, 62, the former vice-president, becomes the first among equals on the eight-man collective state presidency. He was an automatic choice to replace Slovenia's Jancz Drnovsek because it was Serbia's turn to take over the post.

He made clear in an acceptance speech that he would take a firm line against nationalist leaders in the Westernised republics of Slovenia and Croatia who are threatening to break from Yugoslavia after ousting the communists in free elections.

The country also faces a deep economic crisis, growing nationalism and the threat of ethnic unrest, highlighted by clashes between Croatian and Serbian soccer fans on Sunday.

"There are forces that want to achieve the guise of democracy, to achieve their goals, to abandon the country's socialist orientation even at the cost of its disintegration... we will energetically oppose this," he said.

The victories of the Democratic United Opposition of Slovenia and the Croatian Democratic Union have set the two northern republics apart from the rest of the country.



People behind an iron gate in front of Agricultural Ministry pursue alleged former Securitate member who assaulted hunger strikers in central Bucharest. (Reuters wirephoto)

Ethnic groups call for strike

Clash outside Latvian House

MOSCOW, May 15. (Agencies): Ethnic Russian groups have called for protests and strikes today following President Mikhail Gorbachev's decree that the Estonian and Latvian independence declarations were no more legal than Lithuania's more radical proclamation that led to a Soviet economic blockade.

The headline move yesterday came two days after the three Baltic republics joined forces in their fight to regain the independence they lost when they were annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940.

Gorbachev has not yet responded directly to an appeal by the three presidents at Saturday's Baltic summit for joint talks on independence.

A presidential decree, read on the official nightly television news programme Vremya and later carried by the official news agency Tass, said the self-declared restoration of sovereignty by Latvia and Estonia had no legal force.

"The President decrees that the Latvian declaration on May 4 and that of Estonia on March 30 are invalid," Vremya said.

Anti-independence ethnic Russian groups in Estonia and Latvia have called for demonstrations and strikes today to protest the moves to secede.

The stern ruling meant Gorbachev lumped Estonia's and Latvia's more mildly worded independence declarations calling for a phased withdrawal from the Soviet Union in the same category as Lithuania's March 11 independence proclamation.

Moscow ruled Lithuania's independence illegal one week after it was declared in Vilnius and imposed tough economic sanctions, including a cutoff of all oil and most gas, in an effort to make the republic rescind the declaration.

Lithuanian officials announced on Sunday that a tanker carrying 80,000 tons of oil paid for by Lithuanian-Americans was on its way to the republic's port of Klaipeda. Few details were released and the shipment has not been confirmed.

Lithuanian Prime Minister Kazimieras Prunskiene, who returned to Vilnius on Sunday after a two-week trip seeking help from the West, said at a news conference yesterday the republic would have trouble handling such a large shipment.

She was vague about what she called an "offer" of the oil from the West and said Klaipeda did not have the facilities to unload so much oil at once.

The shipment would be a breakthrough in the fight to cope with Moscow's economic sanctions, but Prunskiene said the republic realised it still needed to deal with Moscow.

"We aren't trying to prove to the Soviet Union we can sustain ourselves," she said. "But at some point, we must have a free channel into Western trade."

Prunskiene, who suggested Sunday that Lithuania might soften its stand in an effort to get Moscow to agree to negotiate, said yesterday she would be meeting with other members of the republic's government in the next few days to develop concrete proposals for compromises.

Gorbachev has demanded that the Baltic republics rescind or freeze their declarations of independence as a condition of talks. At Saturday's summit, the three Baltic presidents said once again the declarations could not be withdrawn.

Gorbachev's decree yesterday said the Estonian and Latvian parliaments had violated four articles of the Soviet constitution with their independence legislation.



Leaving Warsaw Pact Debate postponed

BUDAPEST, May 15. (Reuters): The Hungarian Parliament voted today to postpone debate on an opposition proposal that the country should stand by a 1956 decision to quit the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact military alliance.

Deputies rejected by 232 votes to 106, with 19 abstentions a move by the Alliance of Free Democrats to debate the issue urgently on today's agenda.

But they voted by 317 to 22, with 15 abstentions, to consider the question after consideration by parliamentary committees and the new freely-elected government to be sworn in next week.

Caretaker Foreign Minister Gyula Horn said full parliamentary debate on the resolution might now take place in about one month.

Hungary's 1956 decision to quit the pact was taken during a revolutionary uprising led by reformist communist Premier Imre Nagy, who was later executed, and was thwarted by an invasion of Soviet tanks.

The draft resolution to revive the decision was presented to Parliament last week by 72-year-old Miklos Vasarhelyi, who had been Nagy's government spokesman.

Hooligans persist Romanians demand reforms

BUCHAREST, May 15. (Reuters): The "golans" will not give up. Bucharest's University Square is filled with self-confessed golans, the Romanian word for hooligan or vagabond and former dictator Nicolae Ceausescu's favourite term to describe opponents of his Stalinist regime.

They have occupied the Square since April 22. The golans have turned the Square, one of Bucharest's busiest traffic junctions, into a mixture of carnival and political battleground.

Hunger strikers camp out in tents while fathers wearing badges saying "Papa golans" carry their "Son of golan" children on their shoulders.

Students or "Clever golans" rub shoulders with strolling couples or "Golan lovers," and fashionable women or "Trendy golans" as loudspeakers demand Iliescu's resignation and the end of communism.

The protesters say Iliescu and the NSF took power in what amounted to a coup after Ceausescu was overthrown and executed in last December's bloody revolution.

Iliescu himself inadvertently launched the golan fad when he used the term at a campaign rally. He later apologised, saying the word was "unfortunate."

The protest turned ugly on Monday when demonstrators claimed that a hunger striker had been attacked and that a man with a gun had been discovered in the crowd of several thousand.

Both claims were virtually impossible to verify in the excitable atmosphere now prevailing in the Romanian capital.

Prime Minister Petre Roman cancelled a pre-election meeting in a Bucharest suburb after threats to his life, government spokesman Cristian Unteaou said.

The debauche Roman, darling of the NSF government who is often mobbed by women at election rallies, was due to visit the Black Sea port of Constanta today.

The NSF, tipped to sweep home easily in the parliamentary and presidential elections, is vying with opposition centrist and rightist parties in an increasingly bitter election campaign.

The opposition parties allege the NSF is a neo-communist group hiding its leftist leanings and say their candidates have been attacked in rural areas, where support for the front is strongest.

NSF supporters disrupted a rally by National Liberal Party candidate Radu Campeanu in the central city of Brasov on Sunday and millionaire candidate Ion Ratiu of the National Peasants' Party accused opponents on Monday of trying to prevent the press attending his news conference.

Many journalists found themselves in an empty hotel after the venue for his conference was suddenly changed at short notice.

A scuffle between anti-communist demonstrators and a government official Moody sent a wave of alarm through Bucharest's University Square.

Reports that police had arrested three hunger strikers apparently prompted as many as 10,000 protesters to pour into the Square enlarging the "neo-communist free zone" they have maintained there since April 22.

Gypsy king of Romania on Monday demanded compensation for the dozens of families allegedly beaten to death or shot by the police of former dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

Vatican, Romania restore ties: The Vatican and Romania have restored diplomatic relations, broken by Bucharest in 1950, the Vatican said on Tuesday.

A statement said the decision had been taken because the Holy See and Bucharest both wanted to encourage "mutual friendly relations."

Romania is the fourth Warsaw Pact country to restore ties with the Vatican, following Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia, since communist regimes in Eastern Europe started crumbling last year. (Reuters)

US, Albania ties: US and Albanian officials have begun informal discussions for the first time in nearly 50 years on restoring diplomatic relations, a US official said on Monday.

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tuller said a deputy assistant secretary of state met with Albanian representatives in New York two weeks ago, shortly after Tirana said it was interested in resuming relations with the United States and other countries. (Reuters)

Poliburo member dies: Former Soviet poliburo member Andrei Kirilenko, a protégé of the discredited late leader Leonid Brezhnev, has died, the official Tass news agency said on Monday.

Kirilenko, 84, rose through the party ranks in tandem with Brezhnev, who like him was from Dnepropetrovsk in the Ukraine. (Reuters)

Ceausescu wasn't tortured: Romania on Monday denied a report that dictator Nicolae Ceausescu was tortured before his December execution and accused some foreign media of sensationalising events in the country.

Zhivkov trial soon: The investigation with former Bulgarian president Todor Zhivkov will be completed in a month at the earliest, chief prosecutor of Bulgaria Evim Stojmenov said Tuesday.

Zhivkov's trial will be open to the public and Bulgarian and foreign reporters will be allowed to attend. (Kuna)

German election in 1990: Waigel

BONN, May 15. (Reuters): All-German elections, the climax of the German unification process, could be held in 1990, West German Finance Minister Theo Waigel said today.

"It looks more probable today than it did eight weeks ago," he told journalists before a meeting of the parliamentary group of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU).

Kohl hinted on Monday that the election of a single German parliament could take place as early as Dec 2, when West German parliamentary elections are scheduled.

Government spokesman Hans Klein said the final decision on when elections would take place would have to be made by East Germany. Bonn did not want to give the impression it was pressing for an early poll.

The opposition Social Democrats (SPD) oppose early elections.

SPD leader Hans-Jochen Vogel said today that early elections would only increase concern among voters that unification was happening too fast and over their heads.

For all-German elections to take place in December, the unity process would have to be completed by September, he said.

"Does Kohl really believe the two-plus-four problems can be overcome by September?" Vogel asked.

The two Germanys and the four World War II allies are trying to fit a united Germany into the international security picture. A sticking point is Moscow's insistence that a united Germany be neutral rather than belong to NATO.

East German Foreign Minister Markus Meckel, a Social Democrat, said on Tuesday all-German elections should not be held for at least a year.

In an interview with the Cologne Express newspaper, Meckel said the two German states should negotiate a unification treaty this autumn which would provide for East Germany to become part of the West German Federal Republic.

"When we are finished with that, then we should agree without any time pressure — when there could be an all-German election," Meckel said. "For me it is clear all-German elections can take place at the earliest in a year's time."

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's centre-right coalition expressed support for a draft German monetary union treaty.

Coalition leaders meeting in Bonn also agreed monetary union which will introduce the Western mark in the East and launch a radical reform of the formerly communist economy, can start on schedule on July 1, government spokesman Hans Klein told journalists.

Finance ministers Theo Waigel from Bonn and Walter Romberg from East Berlin will work out remaining financial details at a meeting on Thursday, he added.

Kohl, in an ebullient mood after talking late into the night with East German Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere, said he was "more optimistic than ever" about German unity.

Kohl and De Maiziere broke off their 3-1/2-hour talks briefly at one point yesterday to tell waiting newsmen they were making good progress. Kohl said the talks were taking place "between friends" and touched on the introduction of the West German mark in East Germany on July 2.

One in five East German farms will be forced to close in the next five years as the country shifts from communism to a market economy, agriculture minister Peter Pollack said today. About 400,000 farm workers — half the agricultural workforce — would lose their jobs in the shake-up.

The Warsaw Pact is apparently falling apart and must reconsider its future as a military and political alliance, East German disarmament and Defence Minister Rainer Eppelmann said on Monday.

"The Hungarians have signalled that they want to leave the pact. The Czechoslovaks want to freeze the alliance. It's not quite clear what the Poles think..." the official news agency ADN quoted him as saying.

"It seems as though the Warsaw Pact is breaking up."

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater told reporters earlier he expected to be able to announce a summit schedule in 24 to 48 hours.

US officials said they saw no reason for concern about the summit scheduling delay.

Baker's four days in Moscow would provide the last real chance to clinch agreement-in-principle on a strategic arms reduction treaty (Start), officials said.

Bush and Gorbachev set this out as a key aim when they met in Malta last December.

INTERNATIONAL/MIDEAST

World News Roundup

America

US flag case arguments: The Supreme Court, less than a year after striking down a state anti-flag burning law, heard the Bush administration argue Monday that a new federal law is different and necessary to defend old glory as a vital national symbol.

Even though President George Bush initially called the Flag Protection Act of 1989 "inadequate," Solicitor-General Kenneth Starr told the nine justices the law is not unconstitutional. "As long as Congress had the power to create the flag... it has the power to protect the flag," he said. (UPI)

"This isn't just flags, it's the protection of symbols," said Starr, contending very powerful—even if intangible—national interests prompted Congress to try to reverse the Supreme Court's 5-4 decision last spring that flag burning is a protected form of free speech. (UPI)

KKK meeting house burned: An anonymous caller telephoned a Ku Klux Klan meeting house and then gleefully reported on the while supremacist group's telephone answering machine that the task had been accomplished.

Scott County Sheriff William Richardson said Monday investigators were trying to determine whether arsonists set fire to the house, the site of an April 28 rally and cross burning ceremony sponsored by the Klavern of the Confederate Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

Firefighters received a report about a fire in the Steele community, about nine miles (14.5 km) north of Forest, at 11:58 a.m. Saturday. When firefighters arrived, the house had burned to the ground.

Authorities plan to search the site for indications of arson.

"This is just one we're suspicious of. We're going to run an investigation to determine if it was arson," he said. (UPI)

Texas gunmen kill 4: Masked gunmen in camouflage clothing kicked in the door of a seedy Texas cafe early on Monday and blasted players at a high-stakes, all-night dice game with shotgun fire, killing four men and seriously wounding four others, police said.

Police said at least four and perhaps six gunmen took part in the attack at the El Comodoro Cafe, a gambling lounge in the crime-infested east side of Fort Worth, about 30 miles (50 km) west of Dallas.

The men fired several shotgun blasts and then stole several thousand dollars.

They were dressed in camouflage and "several of them had on masks. They held out a task force," a police spokesman said. He said it appeared the use of the phrase "task force" was meant to fool patrons into thinking it was a police raid. (Reuters)

FBI lists suspects in art theft: The FBI has targeted about a dozen suspects in the biggest art theft in US history but none have been directly linked to the crime, the Boston Globe reported on Monday.

The Globe, citing unnamed sources, said suspects in the March theft of 13 works from Boston's Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum were scattered across the world and had been under close scrutiny by federal agents. One recently arrived at Boston's Logan airport. The newspaper said.

Some of the suspects had employed similar methods in previous robberies and others had been identified through informants, the newspaper said. (Reuters)

Exxon probes new documents in the Exxon criminal case: The Exxon criminal case alleges that Exxon managers knew former tanker Capt Joseph Hazelwood was abusing alcohol and was negligent for not firing him before the nation's worst oil spill last year.

In a recent letter from the Justice Department to Exxon lawyers, which offers additional support for the five-count criminal indictment, the government spells out various reasons why it charged Exxon with negligence in the 11-million-gallon spill, including: "Exxon's failure to relieve Joseph Hazelwood from his position as a tanker master after company managers received notice on several occasions in 1988 and February 1989 that he continued to abuse alcohol." (UPI)

Africa

Man to stand trial: A Kenyan of Somali origin will stand trial for the murder last year of George Adamson, local newspapers reported Tuesday.

Ahmed Abdi Shure, 26, also known as Mogul Abdi Shure, was committed for trial by the high court at a date to be fixed on a charge of murder, for allegedly shooting Adamson and two of his assistants last Aug 20.

Adamson, whose efforts with his wife Joy to return orphaned lions to the wild were chronicled in his book "Born Free," was gunned down by a group of men at his home in the Kora National Reserve, 160 miles (260 km) northwest of Nairobi. (UPI)

Herrin smuggling: A woman appeared in Nairobi circuit magistrate's court on Tuesday to answer charges related to a plan to export heroin worth \$22 million to the United States and Europe.

Zelinka Dismora Some, 30, was charged with attempting to obtain travel documents



Brandt in Prague

Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel (right) and former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt (left) meet in Prague. Brandt is on his way to meet with Havel at his invitation. (Reuters wirephoto)



Crash kills

A twin-engine helicopter on a sales demonstration light crashed on a mountain in northern Japan, killing six people including four potential customers, police said on Tuesday.

The Italian-made Augusta A-109A helicopter crashed on Monday near Sapporo, 1,000 km (625 miles) north of Tokyo on Hokkaido Island.

"The helicopter was completely smashed up,"

a police official said.

The six dead, all Japanese, included Eisuo Moriyama, 52, chairman of Asa Helicopter Corp. which had organized the sales promotion flight, a 60-year-old pilot and four potential customers, he said.

The cause of the accident is not yet known

Chinese sad

Unhappy with sex lives

BEIJING, May 15, (Reuters): China's first major study of the intimate lives of its one billion people found many couples were dissatisfied with sex and unhappy in their marriages, a sociologist said today.

"We found that Chinese marriages tend to be stable—people shun divorce. But the quality of the marriages is not good," Liu Dailing of Shanghai University told Reuters by telephone.

Liu said the survey, which he described as the first of its kind, involved interviews in 15 provinces with 23,000 people ranging from sex offenders in prison to middle school students.

Half the 8,000 couples interviewed said they were just making do with their partners despite unfulfilled sex lives and resulting unhappiness, he said.

"Many people have the idea of just making do with a bad marriage," he added. Divorce is frowned on in China and authorities, at least in urban areas, make feeding couples sit through hours of mediation before allowing a divorce. Divorce causes problems with scarce housing, officials said.

Sexual mores have undergone a revolution since the tumultuous days of the late Chairman Mao Tse-tung over a decade ago. Scores of magazines on sale in Beijing now relate tales of "extra-marital love."

Campaigns against what authorities see as promiscuity, prostitution and pornography are still launched periodically. Many arrests have been reported in connection with the current morality campaign.

Liu's researchers went to prisons where they interviewed sexual offenders. More than 80 per cent of the criminals were under 18, he said.

under false pretences, but was expected to be charged with a drugs trafficking offence once an Interpol report on her alleged activities was received, the state prosecutor said.

Call for end to one-party state: One of the men who first negotiated with Britain for Kenya independence called on Tuesday for abandonment of the one-party state and for a commission to revise the East African nation's constitution.

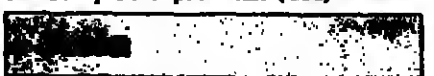
Masinde Muliro, 69, was the latest and most senior of a series of former politicians to give public support to reintroducing a multi-party system in Kenya.

The government of President Daniel Arap Moi has strongly opposed the calls, saying more than one political party would cause tribal division and accusing those wanting pluralism of working for unnamed foreign powers. (UPI)

248 elephants killed: Game rangers in the sprawling Kruger National Park killed 248 elephants last year in their annual culling programme, Minister of Environment Affairs Gert Kotze said.

With an elephant population of just under 8,000 determined by aerial census, selected herds of elephants are killed in a programme to keep the population in check and avoid a "population crash."

The meat and other by-products are processed in the park for public sale. (UPI)



Suspended sentence: Tokyo's penal court Tuesday issued a nine year suspended sentence against a Pakistani merchant for attacking an Italian publisher who translated the controversial Satanic Verses into the Japanese language.

Adnan Rasheed, 30, was found guilty of beating up Gianni Palma, an Italian publisher living in Japan, the court said.

In a press conference in Tokyo's foreign correspondents club last Feb 13, Palma announced that he had completed translation of the book into the Japanese language.

Rasheed claimed that Palma was challenging Muslim feelings in Japan in publishing the book in Japanese. (Kuna)

Helicopter crashes: Two crewmen and eight passengers were rescued Tuesday after their helicopter crashed in the South China Sea Tuesday while on a scheduled flight to an Esso offshore oil platform.

The Sikorsky S-76 developed mechanical problems about 9 miles (16 km) off of the Malaysian east coast and was forced to pitch into the sea.

Esso and the helicopter's operator, Malaysian Helicopter Services, immediately

launched a rescue operation and sent two helicopters and two marine vessels to the scene of the crash.

A statement from Esso said all ten people aboard the helicopter were rescued and returned to the shore after being stranded in the sea for an hour. (UPI)

Forest fire burns: A forest fire that began on May 11 in China's southwest Yunnan province has burned 60 hectares (148 acres) of woods and was still going on Monday, an official news report said.

A report carried by the state-run Xinhua news agency said the fire was located in the northwest county of Zhongdian in Yunnan province, which borders Vietnam, Laos and Burma.

Xinhua cited a local official as saying some 800 local civilians, servicemen and armed police fought for two days to put out the fire in north-western Yunnan. (UPI)

Lee visits Turkey: Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew arrived on Tuesday for a three-day visit to Turkey.

He will hold talks on relations with Turkish officials and President Turgut Ozal.

Turkey is seeking to develop re-export links through Singapore for products destined for Far Eastern markets.

Lee, who ends his official visit on Thursday, will visit historical sites in Istanbul before leaving on Sunday. (Reuters)



Dominican rivals fear fraud: Opposition candidates say they fear widespread fraud in Wednesday's presidential elections in the Dominican Republic.

"The present government has no choice but to use fraud to win," said Osofite Rojas, an adviser to centre-left challenger Juan Bosch whose 1963 presidency was cut short after seven months by a coup. (Reuters)

Yang in Mexico: Chinese President Yang Shangkun arrived in Mexico on Monday for a visit he had planned to make a year ago but postponed on the eve of the bloody crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators in Beijing.

Yang, who was greeted at the international airport by Foreign Minister Fernando Solana, was to spend four days in Mexico on the first leg of a Latin American trip which will also take him to Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina and Chile. (Reuters)

Tremor sways Santiago: A strong earth tremor swayed buildings in the Chilean capital and shook central Chile for 30 seconds on Monday, causing alarm but no damage, the national emergency office said.

In Santiago, high-rise office buildings swayed for half a minute at 5:30 pm (21:30 GMT). Police reported no casualties.

\$10m to lure back refugees: Guatemala will ask the international community for \$10 million to help lure more than 40,000 refugees in Mexico back to their homes, a refugee official said on Monday.

The refugees fled Guatemala during a brutal counter-insurgency campaign in the early 1980s when the army allegedly burned hundreds of villages and killed thousands of peasants. Less than 4,000 are believed to have returned from United Nations camps in Mexico. (Reuters)

Bus accident kills 14: A passenger bus hit a truck and then plunged into a ravine on the outskirts of Mexico City, killing at least 14 people and injuring 30 others, police said on Monday.

A police spokeswoman said the bus, heading from the working-class suburb of Naucalpan to the nearby city of Toluca, fell into a ravine 15 metres (yards) deep after slamming into the truck late on Sunday.

The cause of the accident was not immediately known. (Reuters)

FMLN propose peace: The newspaper El Mundo reported on Monday that El Salvador's leftist rebels have proposed a detailed timetable for ending the country's decade-long civil war by July next year.

The report, which gave no source, appeared two days before the US-backed Salvadoran government and rebels of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) were due to meet in Caracas for a new round of peace talks.

Government officials in El Salvador and FMLN representatives in Mexico City were not immediately available to comment on the report.

The timetable published by the afternoon newspaper proposed a ceasefire by December 1990 to be agreed at the same time as accords on constitutional reform, demilitarisation and greater democracy. (Reuters)

Mohamed Berrada which will slash government spending and increase taxes.

It said the budget would cut purchasing power, raise the cost of living, increase unemployment and poverty.

The motion was backed by the Istiqlal, the Socialist Union of People's Forces, the Communist Party of Progress and Socialism, and the Organisation for Democratic and Popular Action, a small leftist group.

Opposition sources said it if it came to a vote the motion would also be approved

Impact diluted without Syria

PLO looks for strong position at summit

TUNIS, May 15, (Reuters): The PLO is looking to the Arab summit in Baghdad for a strong position against the influx of Soviet Jews to Israel but Syria's absence and political deadlock in Israel will dilute the impact of the meeting, diplomats say.

Yasser Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), was the driving force behind the arrangements but it was Iraq's rows with the West that won apathetic Arab countries over to the idea of an urgent meeting.

Nineteen of the 22 Arab League's members have now agreed to take part in the summit, which opens on May 28.

PLO officials had said they wanted it to be the first step towards reconstructing an Arab "eastern front" uniting Iraq, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon against Israel. Such a front may be able to stand up against a perceived Israeli threat to drive Palestinians out of the occupied territories or seize new land on which to settle its growing population.

Arafat also wanted to show a united Arab stand against the expected influx of up to 800,000 Soviet Jews to Israel by 1995 before US President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev meet in Washington on May 30.

A summit in Baghdad with Syria present would have set the seal on a series of inter-Arab rapprochements and shown the superpowers they could no longer treat the Middle East lightly by playing one country off against another. PLO officials said.

But Syria's threat to boycott the meeting because it objects to Baghdad as a venue, coupled with the delay in forming a new Israeli government, have helped to undermine the PLO's original aims, diplomats said.

"The row over the summit has brought the rift between Baghdad and Damascus back to the surface and maybe even deepened it. For the PLO, it's very unfortunate and not at all what they had hoped for," one Arab diplomat

in Tunis said.

"In a sense the Iraqis have hijacked the occasion for their own purposes. Arafat has had to keep going through the motions because of his friendship with (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein," he added.

Iraq says Britain, Israel and the United States are in league against its military industrialisation plans.

Its row with the West over an alleged long-range cannon and over capacitors which could work as nuclear detonators have won it widespread support from Arab countries which share its sense of indignation at Western policies which have the effect of protecting Israel's military superiority.

A third PLO hope for the summit—stimulating efforts to organise a first Israeli-Palestinian meeting in Cairo—has fallen by the wayside as all the partners in the Middle East wait to see what kind of government takes shape in occupied Jerusalem.

Waite is well after illness

BEIRUT, May 15, (Agencies): British church envoy Terry Waite is alive and well after 40 months as a hostage in Lebanon and has recovered from a recent illness.

They said two Iranian doctors attended Waite regularly until his condition worsened about a month ago, when he was treated by a doctor from Beirut's American University Hospital.

One source said an end to the plight of all Western hostages, including six Americans and three Britons, was near. He said Washington and Tehran were holding direct talks on the issue.

"Waite is being held in acceptable conditions in the southern suburbs (of Beirut) and is receiving regular medical attention," he said.

The sources, close to the groups holding Waite, 51, and 14 other Westerners in Lebanon, would not say what Waite suffered from. They said he had had "several health problems."

"Two Iranian doctors attend regularly to him but around a month ago his condition deteriorated and a Lebanese doctor from the American hospital in Beirut treated him and he was recovered," one source said.

Waite, lay aide to Anglican Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie, vanished on Jan 20, 1987, when he left his West Beirut hotel to negotiate with hostage-takers for the release of US captives Terry Anderson and Thomas Sutherland.

No group has claimed his abduction but he is believed held by pro-Iranian militants close to Hezbollah who hold most of the other captives.

The sources said the British government had been seeking information on Waite through many channels. "But we will not give it to them officially," one said.

Britain says it will not negotiate with hostage-takers.

Droze leader Walid Jumblatt, whose men were responsible for Waite's security when he disappeared, has repeatedly named Hezbollah as the kidnappers. He urged them to release Waite, saying he was not a spy as they claimed.

Waite played a role in the release in November 1986 of the Director of the American University Hospital, David Jacobsen. He denied reports then that he was linked to a secret arms-for-hostages deal between Iran and the United States.

The source said Washington paid "a handsome price" for the release last month of Americans Robert Pollitt and Frank Herbert Reed, but did not elaborate.

A visiting Middle East-based Irish diplomat seeking the release of Irish hostage Brian Keenan said today he was "optimistic, but not that optimistic" that the captive would be freed soon.

Antoine Mac Unraidh, speaking during a news conference at the Irish consulate in West Beirut, said: "I think that the climate has changed. There is now willingness to resolve the hostage issue on humanitarian grounds."

Iran responds to Iraqi offer

Baghdad denies curbs on Rajavi

ROME, May 15, (Agencies): Iraqi Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz announced here last night that Iran has responded to an Iraqi proposal to hold direct negotiations.

Speaking to reporters following a meeting with UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Aziz said the first initiative came from Baghdad and Tehran responded to a message from the Iraqi government to conduct face-to-face talks to break the logjam of the state of no-peace-no-war which prevailed following the Gulf war.

The Iraqi official indicated that the messages were exchanged formally, and Iraq considers the Iranian response "a positive progress."

Aziz declined to answer a question regarding contents of the message, saying only that he evaluates the step "positively."



A Syrian soldier with a rocket-propelled grenade in his hand stands near a pro-Iranian Hezbollah office yesterday in Muslim west Beirut. Syrian troops deployed in some areas of west Beirut to halt overnight heavy clashes between Muslim foes that killed two and wounded five. (Reuters wirephoto)

2 killed, 4 hurt in West Beirut

Inter-Shiite clashes

BEIRUT, May 15, (Reuters): Syrian troops patrolled the streets of west Beirut today in half nine hours of battles between rival Shiite Muslims, in which two people were killed and four wounded.

Security sources said the troops moved into the residential areas of Wadi Abu Jamil, Ain Marassi and Ninawa, where the pro-Iranian Hezbollah and Syrian-backed Amal traded machine-gun and rocket fire overnight.

The inter-Shiite clashes, the latest in bloody three-year feud, destroyed dozens of cars and several shops and started a number of fires.

More than 950 people have been killed in west Beirut and south Lebanon since 1987 in battles between Hezbollah and Amal, vying for authority over the country's 1.5 million Shiites. Numerous mediation attempts by Iran and Syria have failed.

Across the capital's Green Line, residents of east Beirut

were braced for renewed artillery battles between rival Christian forces despite an overnight lull.

Three people were killed and 12 wounded in clashes yesterday between troops of General Michel Aoun and Lebanese Forces (LF) militiamen.

Patriarch Nasrallah Bulros Sfeir, the highest Maronite Christian leader in Lebanon, appealed to both sides to lay down their arms.

"Don't kill your brothers, don't burn your churches and institutions, drop your arms and force your leaders to dialogue... to kill isn't a heroic act," Sfeir said.

At least 1,075 people have been killed and 3,150 wounded since January 31 when Aoun ordered the 10,000-strong militia to disarm, sparking the worst inter-Christian fighting.

Aoun today came out molding general parliamentary elections in Lebanon under the Arab and international auspices.

About De Cuellar's mediation between Iraq and Iran, Aziz said: "The secretary-general has no important role to play in this regard... and he has exerted his utmost to facilitate the negotiations but as you know he can achieve a great success if the two concerned parties tried to be closer."

Aziz refuted press reports claiming that the Iraqi message suggested that negotiations between the two countries concerning borders issues should be based on 1975 Algiers agreement. An agreement which was rejected by late Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini and top Iranian leaders.

Iraqi Foreign Undersecretary Nizar Hamdoun said in a published statement today that Iraqi leadership is studying the message of the Iranian leaders in reply to the message from President Saddam Hussein to Iran's President Hashemi Rafsanjani.

Hamdoun, in a telephone interview with a Kuwaiti daily, added that the Iraqi leadership would announce its position after studying the Iranian reply message in the coming few days.

Asked about reports of a meeting between Iranian and Iraqi officials, possibly at foreign ministers' level, Hamdoun declined comment, saying "we are still studying the message."

On the planned extraordinary Arab summit, scheduled to convene in Baghdad on May 28, the Iraqi officials said preparations for the conclave are nearing completion and indicated that Iraq is now awaiting Arab proposals about the summit's agenda.

Baghdad denied today a Tehran newspaper report that it had clamped down on Iran's main opposition group, the Mujahideen Khalq, in Iraq.

Kayhan Havar, a weekly directed at Iranians abroad, said in its current issue that Iraqi authorities had banned Mujahideen leader Massoud Rajavi from leaving the country and imposed restrictions on the groups activities in Iraq.

"The report, which was repeated by some news agencies, that the Iraqi government had put restrictions on Rajavi... is completely baseless," the official Iraqi News Agency, INA, quoted a "reliable source" as saying.

The Tehran report was also denied yesterday by a Mujahideen spokesman in Baghdad, the headquarters of the group since its leaders were forced to leave France in 1986.

An Iranian newspaper said yesterday declining Western support for Baghdad was responsible for Iraq's proposal that the two countries' presidents meet to break the deadlock in peace talks.

The headline newspaper Kayhan International said Iran should try to sharpen the current rift between Iraq and the West to gain the upper hand in peace negotiation.

UN secretary general returned to New York today after talks in Rome with Iraqi foreign minister on efforts to seal a final peace settlement to the Gulf war.

Moroccan opposition parties table first parliamentary censure motion

RABAT, May 15, (Reuters): Four Moroccan opposition parties have for the first time tabled a motion of censure in parliament strongly criticising the centre-right government's policies.

There were stormy scenes in a chamber of representatives last night after the motion signed by 82 opposition party members was read by Abdelhak Tazi, a leader of the old-guard Istiqlal Party.

Four pro-government parties have an absolute majority in the 306-seat chamber

elected in 1984 so that the opposition appears to have little chance of winning a no-confidence vote.

Members of the majority protested that the motion was not on the agenda of the session and should have been first presented to the speaker, Ahmed Osman, brother-in-law of King Hassan and leader of one of four parties in the majority.

The motion denounced in particular the new austerity budget presented to Parliament by Finance Minister

Mohamed Berrada which will slash government spending and increase taxes.

It said the budget would cut purchasing power, raise the cost of living, increase unemployment and poverty.

The motion was backed by the Istiqlal, the Socialist Union of People's Forces, the Communist Party of Progress and Socialism, and the Organisation for Democratic and Popular Action, a small leftist group.

Opposition sources said it if it came to a vote the motion would also be approved

by 10 members representing three trade union federations and possibly some defectors from certain majority parties.

Under the constitution, if a no-confidence vote is passed the government of Prime Minister Azeddine Laraki, an independent, would be obliged to resign.

An appeal by six leading Moroccan Islamic activists jailed for two years each has been postponed for one week, defence lawyers said today.

Settlers rampage in Jerusalem area

Arabs stage general strike

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 15. (Agencies): Police tear-gassed Jewish settlers who rampaged through Arab neighborhoods in the Jerusalem area early today, smashing car and house windows, after Palestinians firebombed an Israeli bus.

Palestinians staged a general strike in the occupied territories on the 42nd anniversary of the establishment of the state of Israel. Two more Arabs died from Israeli gunfire in uprising-related incidents.

Settlers from Maale Adumim, a West Bank dormitory town perched on hills just outside Jerusalem, attacked Arab motorists after a petrol bomb hit a bus on the road to their settlement. One settler was arrested, police said.

"Several groups of Maale Adumim residents went wild. They stoned Arab homes near the road to Jerusalem, tried to yank Arabs out of their cars and disrupted traffic," a police spokeswoman told Reuters.

She said the settlers stoned houses in the Arab villages of Azyariya and Issawiya outside East Jerusalem. The army clamped a curfew on Azyariya, a frequent ambush spot where a Jewish taxi driver was stoned and injured last night.

Five employees of the Arabic Al-Fajr newspaper were injured by flying glass when 50 settlers yelling "death to Arabs" stoned their car, an Arab journalist told Reuters.

The Palestinian employees were returning from the newspaper's West Bank printing plant when they encountered the settlers at the French hill junction, just north of Arab East Jerusalem.

"They began shouting, Arabs, Arabs, in Hebrew, one newspaper employee said. 'They were waiting for Arabs,' he said.

Al-Fajr issued a statement today condemning "this aggressive and racist attack... and such Jewish settlers will not succeed in terrorising our people and silencing their voice."

A radical Palestinian group today called on Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to use guns to fight the Israelis.

"We urge our Palestinian people in the Israeli-occupied territories to use weapons against the Israeli troops who are killing our people," Abdel-Hadi Nabash, spokesman for the Fatah uprising group, said in a statement.

In the West Bank village of Kaikilya, 14-year-old Samih Abu Sheikh died from wounds sustained when he was shot in the head by an Israeli motorist on Sunday, the army said. Palestinians said a settler shot him.

Last night, border police shot and killed Khaimis Abu Khousa, 19, in a clash with masked activists in an orchard in the Gaza Strip, military sources said.

Israeli radio said the village headman of Balaa in the West Bank was stabbed to death by militants who accused him of collaborating with security forces. The army said it had found the body of an Arab man and was investigating.

Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip closed their shops, halted transport and stayed home to protest at the anniversary of Israel's establishment. Israelis celebrated the anniversary on April 30 according to the Hebrew calendar.

A general strike called by leaders of a 29-month uprising also prevented most workers from the territories from going to jobs in Israel. Some 120,000 Arab workers pour into Israel daily to earn their livelihood.

The army imposed a curfew on some 250,000 Gazans, more than a third of the strip's residents, to prevent unrest during the strike. Several areas of the West Bank were also under curfew.

Police commissioner Ya'acov Turner said police would take every measure to halt Palestinian attacks on Israeli vehicles with stones and molotov cocktails. But he also warned Israeli revenge attacks and said the police would not allow residents to take the law into their own hands.

Govt forming

Shamir to ask for more time

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 15. (Reuters): Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir will ask President Chaim Herzog for more time to try to force a right-wing government when his three-week mandate expires on Friday, a Likud Party cabinet member said today.

Asked if Shamir, the Likud leader, could form a coalition this week, Labour and Social Affairs Minister Ronni Milo told reporters: "No I don't think so. We are going to conclude negotiations and agreements with the other parties this week and then I believe that next week we have a good chance to present the new government in the Knesset (parliament)."

Milo met the national religious party as part of a drive for agreements with four religious parties and three right-wing factions that would give Shamir 65 votes in the 120-seat parliament.

Al Gabid warns of influx

Dangerous like creation of Israel

NICOSIA, May 15. (Reuters): The 46-member Organisation of Islamic Conference said today an influx of Soviet Jews into Israel was as dangerous as the creation of the Jewish state.

"Campaigns to settle Soviet Jewish emigrants in the occupied Palestinian land are no less dangerous than the Jewish influx that led to the usurpation of Palestine and the creation of so-called Israel," OIC Secretary-General Hamid Al Gabid said in a statement to mark the 42nd anniversary of the creation of the Jewish state.

In the statement, carried by the Saudi Press Agency SPA, Al Gabid said May 15 marked "a painful memory of one of the most cruel acts of injustice in modern history."

"This occasion is one of the black pages in the history of the Palestinian people, the Arab and Muslim nation," he said.

Israel denies it has a formal policy to settle Soviet Jews in the West Bank and Gaza Strip but says they were free to live where they liked.

Palestinians want to set up their independent state in the territory which was occupied by Israel in 1967 Arab-Israeli war.



Mubarak in Kremlin. Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev (left) and Egyptian President Mubarak seen prior to talks in the Kremlin. (Reuters wirephoto)

Resolution on health of Arab population

In occupied territories

GENEVA, May 15. (Kuna): A resolution regarding the health conditions of the Arab population in the occupied Arab territories has been proposed to the World Health Assembly by the delegations of Kuwait, Bahrain, Morocco, Egypt, Syria and Zimbabwe.

The resolution expresses "preoccupation and concern at the deterioration in the health conditions of the Arab population in the occupied territories."

It further stresses that "Israeli occupation is inconsistent with the main requirements for the development of a health system appropriate to the needs of the population in the occupied territories."

While deploring the continuous deterioration of the situation in the occupied territories, the resolution urges the director general of the World Health Organisation (WHO) to pursue implementation of special technical assistance to improve the health conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

The resolution also requests

WHO to "intensify implementation of the special technical assistance programme, emphasising the primary health care approach in co-ordination with all member states and all other organisations involved in the health and humanitarian activities, in particular the Palestinian Red Crescent Society."

Moreover, the resolution asks the director general to pursue implementation of special technical assistance to improve the health conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine.

In a statement released today, the delegation of the United States has already expressed its opposition to the proposed resolution, claiming that the "language and content of the resolution are patently political."

The USA objects to the inclusion of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society in the resolution, which it claims, makes no sense, since the society does not operate in the occupied territories, and therefore the role accorded to it in the resolution "makes no sense."



'Deranged' Jew held

Israeli police have arrested a second mentally unbalanced Jew — a friend of one already in custody — on suspicion of desecrating 250 graves in the city of Haifa.

A Haifa police spokesman said a "mentally confused" 32-year-old Jew had been arrested and that he was a friend of a mentally deranged man arrested on Sunday.

The arrest on Sunday was made after reports that the deranged man had been seen acting strangely near the two desecrated graveyards.

At the weekend, tombstones in two cemeteries were sprayed with anti-Israeli

slogans. Just days after a Jewish cemetery in southern France was defaced, "Hussein, destroy Israel" and "the Arabs will kill the Jews" were among the messages written in perfect Hebrew, which were daubed on the tombstones.

The spokesman said it was not yet certain that the suspects were responsible for the vandalism which outraged Israelis.

Tens of thousands of demonstrators (shown above) holding an Israeli flag, held demonstrations against the desecration of the Jewish cemetery at Carpentras, May 14 in Paris. (Reuters wirephoto)

Jordan cool to march violence

AMMAN, May 15. (Reuters): The Jordanian government reacted calmly today to violence which flared during a pro-Palestinian march near the ceasefire line with Israel.

"Despite what happened, the march was successful in terms of the numbers of people that turned up and the organisation," Interior Minister Salem Masa'deh told Reuters.

Riot police fired tear-gas yesterday to repel stone-throwing protesters trying to reach the King Hussein Bridge, which leads to the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Underline

They had broken away from a march led by more than 10,000 people to underline the right of Palestinians to return to their homeland.

Hospitals treated 53 people, mainly for tear-gas inhalation, and two policemen suffered broken limbs, police said.

"The march showed the strong co-existence between Jordanians and Palestinians. We are pleased because this deepens national unity which many try to shake now and then," Masa'deh said.

He would not say who had provoked the clash with police but said he doubted it had been entirely spontaneous.

"We have no indications but there must be people who are not happy with Jordan's image and want to distort it," he said.

Milestone

The march, which had official blessing, was the first of its kind in Jordan for more than two decades and another milestone in a year-old process of political liberalisation.

Masa'deh said the trouble would not deter the government from giving permission for demonstrations in future as long as it was convinced of their merits.

"Jordanians and Palestinians were too close to the heroes of the intifada (uprising) not to display their deep emotions and frustrations in an enthusiastic fashion," said the English-language Jordan Times.

"The march was a proud manifestation of those feelings and as such it was a huge success," the daily added.

MIDEAST BRIEFS

UN troop donors: Countries contributing troops to the UN peace-keeping force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) expressed renewed concern on Monday over their heavy financial burden and urged support for a proposal by the secretary general for the costs to be divided among all UN members.

UNFICYP, established in 1964 to help keep peace between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities, has so far been financed by voluntary donations.

By late last year the force had an accumulated deficit of more than \$174 million. (Reuters)

Afghan beauty queen: The first Afghan beauty queen in 12 years was chosen in Kabul on Monday.

Twenty-year-old Qudsiya Abdul Kudus, an air hostess of the state-run Ariana Airline, was crowned Miss Afghanistan for 1990 in a contest organised by the Youth Wing of President Najibullah's ruling People's Democratic Party (PDP).

No other beauty contest had been held in Afghanistan since the 1978 Marxist coup that brought the PDP to power. Afghan women generally wear the Muslim veil except in Kabul, where they can move about in Western dress. (Reuters)

Sudan seeks agreement: The Sudanese government seeks to conclude an agreement with the rebel Sudan Peoples Liberation Army, SPLA, and the United Nations to facilitate the use of river boats for the transportation of relief with the UN sponsored operation Lifeline-Sudan-2, said Relief Minister Peter Orat in an interview published here Tuesday.

A meeting of the three parties would be held in Nairobi, Kenya, next Monday for the purpose, Orat told ALingaz Al-Wakeel daily.

The relief minister has added that 9 trucks loaded with relief supplies have headed for Bahrd Ghazal ahead of the rainfall which hinders movement on roads. This quantity, in addition to other supplies to be moved by train, would meet the demand throughout the rainy season, Orat said. (Kuna)

Christians charged Egypt strife

CAIRO, May 15. (Reuters): Egyptian authorities have charged 23 Christians with fomenting sectarian strife following battles between police and mourners at a funeral, a public prosecutor said today.

Mohammed Kadri Elsa said the 23, arrested in Alexandria on Sunday, had also been charged with resisting the authorities, disturbing the peace and disrupting transport.

Police baton-charged sections of a crowd several thousand strong at the funeral of six Christians murdered last Friday.

An Egyptian farmer seeking revenge for his brother's death shot dead the six, including a priest, in an ambush of their car near the Mediterranean city.

Police said that although the farmer was Muslim and his victims Christian, the killing had no religious connotations.

Elsa told Reuters some of the detainees were students and were being allowed to attend year-end exams under police escort. Detainees can be held up to 15 days for questioning, subject to renewal.

Religious funding probe: Israel's state comptroller says he will investigate the funding of religious institutions after evidence that taxpayers' money was being channelled to non-existent charities.

Miriam Ben Porat, an independent watchdog on "shortcomings and corruption in government," said she would look into evidence that some religious bodies were actually only letter boxes for political parties.

"To whom are these funds being transferred? Do these organisations actually exist or are they simply post office boxes? And for what are the funds actually used?" she told a news conference on Monday. (Reuters)

Identity process flawed Ties with PLO, Israel

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 15. (Reuters): A lawyer for convicted Nazi war criminal John Demjanjuk today said Israel's Supreme Court to throw out key evidence identifying his client as the sadistic gas chamber guard "Ivan the Terrible."

Israeli lawyer Yoram Sheftel challenged the identification process, arguing that contrary to accepted practice witnesses were shown sets of photographs in which no one else remotely resembled Demjanjuk.

"It is like putting a black man among seven whites or a white man among seven blacks," he told the five-justice panel on the second day of the appeal against the Ukrainian-born Demjanjuk's conviction and death sentence.

Demjanjuk's identity was the crux of the trial and will be a major issue in the appeal. The bulky 70-year-old deported US car worker claims he was never at the Treblinka death camp in Nazi-occupied Poland, where 850,000 Jews died.

Sheftel said Demjanjuk was never asked to take part in a live identity parade and prosecutors questioned witnesses in three countries about the photographs in the absence of a defence lawyer.



John Demjanjuk

Vice patrols on prowl

Enforce Islam's strict dress code

NICOSIA, May 15. (Reuters): It's summertime in Tehran and the vice patrols are on the prowl. They prey on women — and men — whose too much of their bodies and too little respect for Islam's strict dress code.

Bare arms are banned. So are tight clothes displaying curves and even a wisp of female hair escaping from a headscarf.

The patrols arrested 20 people last Thursday when they started roaming the streets of the capital, the first day of an official campaign to "fight manifestations of corruption."

Revolutionary guards are combing the nearby Alborz mountains in pursuit of hikers breaking the dress code. Even computers have been brought into the battle against the bad-hejab (improperly-dressed) women.

Iran's top judge Mohammad Yazdi entered the fray on Sunday, urging Islamic tribunals to clamp down on infringements of the dress code. "Judicial courts should vigorously deal with those groups of individuals who will not reform through advice and guidance and continue to take no heed of public virtue."

The campaign begins annually at the start of summer when women cast off heavy clothing after the harsh winter. Vice patrols swoop on women wearing make-up or failing to cover up everything but their face and hands.

Not that men are spared. Short-sleeved shirts are out and bare-chested males run the risk of public flogging.

"A lady's face and hands from the wrist down can be exposed, but the rest of the body must be covered," the governor-general of Tehran province, Mahmoud Taberi, told Iranian television.

"The hair, neck, chest, arms and legs must all be covered... a smock should not be so tight as to reveal curves... such a thing would lead to vice and corruption."

Violators of either sex can receive up to 74 lashes and authorities have said names of lesser offenders will be kept on computer. Persistent offenders are likely to lose their jobs.

The campaigns are aimed mainly at middle-class women who dare to go out in bright clothes, thin stockings and with hair protruding from scarves — in defiance of Iran's clerical rulers who equate chaste behaviour with the Islamic dress code.

The display of women's hair is considered especially objectionable. Former President Abolhassan Bani-Sadr, now a political exile in France, fuelled a national debate on the issue soon after the 1979 Islamic revolution which overthrew the Shah.

A woman's hair, he argued, sent out special rays arousing men.

Tehran residents said this year's campaign was more organised than before, when zealots would cruise the capital on motorbikes and beat up women showing their locks on the street.

Residents said the street thugs had all but disappeared, leaving the campaign to the vice squads.

Stupidity threatens US-Israel relations

WASHINGTON, May 15. (UPI): Simcha Dinitz, head of the Jewish agency, said that stupidity on all sides is the great danger in the current difficult period in US-Israeli relations.

Dinitz, a former Israeli ambassador to the United States and now head of the agency that is responsible for absorbing Soviet immigrants into Israeli society, said in an interview with United Press International that the damage to relations is not permanent, but the situation could get out of control.

On the Israeli side, he said that the takeover by Jewish settlers of St John's Hospice in occupied Jerusalem was "an act of stupidity." He said it was almost universally condemned inside Israel and by US Jews.

The State Department also condemned the takeover, which was subsidised secretly by the Israeli government, as an action that was "insensitive and provocative." Dinitz said the Israeli government didn't know about the settlement, but it should have — "it was stupid."

He feared an equally stupid act by the US government — questioning Israeli sovereignty in occupied Jerusalem as a result of the St John's Hospice incident — could make the current damage to US-Israeli relations deep and lasting.

He said, "every country has its panic button. Israel's is occupied Jerusalem."

Risk

By discussing with Arab countries the possibility of a United Nations Security Council resolution which would condemn Israeli settlements in all of occupied Jerusalem, he said, the United States runs the risk of uniting "everyone in Israel, from the most dovish to the most hawkish, from (occupied Jerusalem Mayor) Teddy Kollek to (former defence minister Ariel Sharon) on something that is totally unacceptable to Jews in Israel or the United States: Giving up occupied Jerusalem."

Negotiations on the Arab resolution were suspended because of American reservations over wording that would have declared the Israeli settlement in violation of international law, but Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens protested to the US ambassador over the issue.

Dinitz said the US actions in the incident "run the risk of offending both sides, and in 30 years of being a diplomat, I learned that is the one thing you don't do."

Arens has a total population of about 4.2 million so the increase in Israeli population would be equivalent, proportionally, to the US population increasing by about 6 million immigrants every year.

Foreign Minister Moshe Arens did not indicate US-Israeli ties reached a low point when he said there were tensions in the relationship, an aide said yesterday.

In an Israeli radio interview last week, Arens said he was "troubled" by US co-ordination with Arab states on a UN Security Council resolution opposing settlement of Soviet Jews in occupied land.

Arens, who summoned US Ambassador William Brown to protest the US activity, also said on the radio that "there's no doubt that at this moment we are going through a period of tension with the United States."

But Arens' press adviser, Dan Naveh, disputed a report by the Associated Press saying Arens statements indicated a low point to relations.

"Contrary to recent press reports... Mr Arens has not indicated that the US-Israeli relations were at a low point," he said.

Naveh added he "regretted that such a perception was created on the basis of statements which the foreign minister in fact never made."

Islamists win lead

ZARQA, Jordan, May 15. (Reuters): The Muslim Brotherhood and its Islamist allies looked set to make a strong showing in municipal elections in Zarqa, Jordan's second city, today.

Muslim Brotherhood activists ferried voters to 11 Zarqa polling stations, but early turn-out was low and officials said voting could be extended until tomorrow.

Political observers in Zarqa said Islamists, with 19 of the 54 candidates, appeared likely to win at least six of the 10 municipal council seats in Zarqa's first election since 1978.

Two-thirds of the seats will go to the Islamists, and leftists and loyalists will pick up the rest," predicted one local official, who asked not to be named.



Britain condemned

Children take part in a march by Britain's Iraqi community through west London on Sunday. Protesters condemned Britain, the United States and Israel and supported a proposal for the banning of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. (Reuters wirephoto)

GCC media urged to step up co-operation

Information systems facing challenges

RIYADH, May 15, (Kuna): GCC Information Undersecretary yesterday urged their governments to step up co-operation among them in media and to agree on a strategy to cope with the challenges posed by the advanced satellite communication systems.

The information undersecretaries of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE, Bahrain, Oman and Qatar, made the recommendation

at the end of a 1 day conference they held here to set the stage for the May 23 meeting of GCC information ministers.

Oman's Information Undersecretary Hamad Bin Mohammed Al Rasaidi warned in his address to the meeting that "our information system is now facing a serious challenge resulting from the satellite communications" involving especially oriented programmes aimed at the region, a

conference source said.

He suggested that the six members of the Gulf Co-operation Council make extra efforts in co-ordinating their media under a common policy, the source added.

Saudi Undersecretary Foad Abdul Salam Al Farisi told the conference the swift political changes in Eastern Europe, the Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel and the East-West rapprochement would have

at tangible effect on international relations.

And he called for stronger inter-GCC co-operation for the region to react in harmony to those political and economic changes, according to the source.

The Gulf media officials discussed partial privatisation of television programme production, co-operation among GCC radios as well as upgrading the programmes of the "Voice of GCC" broadcast.

KFAS book awards announced

KUWAIT, May 15, (Kuna): The Board of Directors of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science yesterday announced the winners of the award of the 15th Arab Book Exhibition for 1989.

In the field of sciences, Dr Abu Bakr Ahmed Al Sayyed grabbed the award for his book "Numerical Analysis", while the award for the best science book translated into Arabic was not given.

Dr Ihsan Aghas won the award for the best book in the field of arts, letters and humanities for his book "Abdel Hamid Bin Yahya: 'The Author'". Dr Hassan Taha Najem and Dr Makki Mohammed Aziz won the award for the best translated book in the field titled "The Geography of the Third World."

Awards for the best books on Kuwait and the Arab child were not given because all books handed in the two fields did not meet the awards' requirements.

Winners of the various awards are presented with KD 3,000, the foundation's shield and an honorary certificate. A sum of KD 1,000 is also awarded to the publisher of the winning book.

Meanwhile Kuwait's Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (Paaet) will resume sending outstanding girl students abroad to pursue their higher studies, the director of scholarships and cultural relations at Paaet, Dr Khamki was quoted as saying.

Speaking at a press conference, he said that the process had been suspended during the year 1984/1985 after a visit of Paaet officials to the USA.

However, he said that the suspension had been the cause of several complaints and after a review of the case, the General Scholarships Committee had referred the issue to the Higher Education Ministry who after consulting the Kuwait cultural attaches abroad, confirmed the necessity of resuming scholarships.

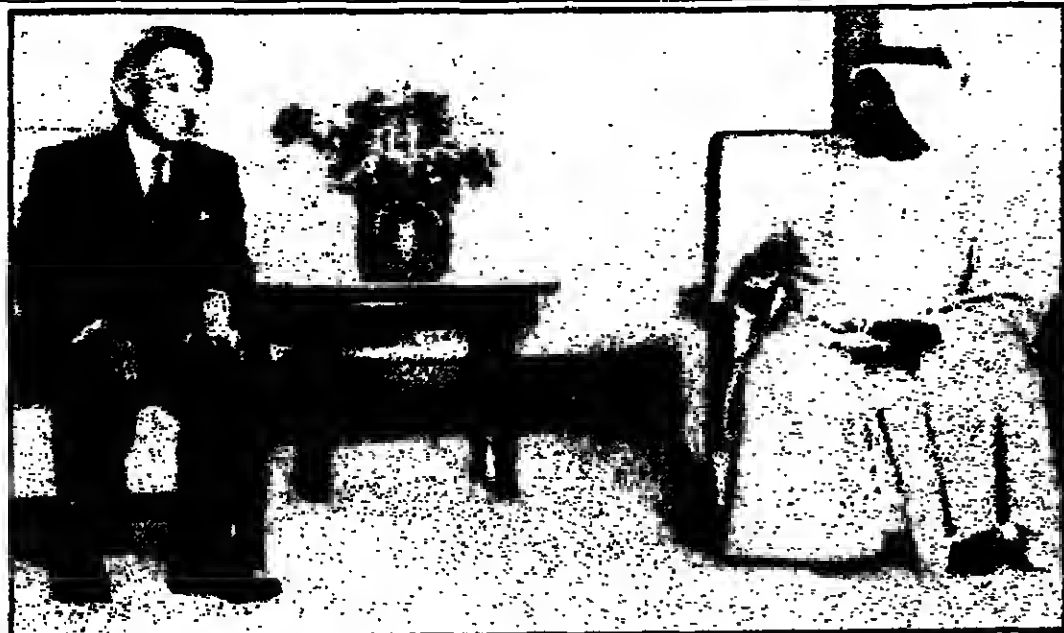
Meanwhile, the official said that Paaet had nominated about 97 graduates to be sent abroad for obtaining their M.A. and Ph.D degrees. Most will proceed to universities in the USA and UK and some will go to Arab countries.

Houti receives China invitation

KUWAIT, May 15, (Kuna): Minister of Public Works Abdul Rahman Ibrahim Al Houti yesterday received an official invitation to visit Beijing.

The invitation was conveyed by the Chinese ambassador to Kuwait Guan Zi Hui, during a meeting with Houti today. The two sides exchanged cordial talks during the meeting.

Later Houti received Yugoslavian Ambassador to Kuwait Hasan Dervishbegovic.



Zayed in Japan

UAE President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan (R) meets with Japanese Emperor Akihito at the Imperial Palace Monday. Sheikh Zayed will hold talks with the Japanese on bilateral co-operation, particularly in cultural and technological fields during his stay there.

International seminar on zakat

Muslims should fulfill divine duty: Gabid

KUALA LUMPUR, May 15, (Kuna): The experience of specialised Zakat bodies in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, as well as those of other Islamic countries including Malaysia, could serve as a global model, an international seminar on Zakat here was told yesterday.

Secretary-General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Dr Hamid Al Gabid said the existence of the specialised bodies had enabled the collection of Zakat to be organised for better use, in accordance with the Quran.

In his keynote address at the Third International Seminar on Zakat at the Pusat Islam (Malaysian Islamic Centre) here, Dr Hamid singled out the Baitul Zakat of Kuwait and the Department of Zakat and Income Taxes of Saudi Arabia as well organised Zakat collection bodies.

He said Muslims should pay greater attention to the need to abide by the divine prescription on Zakat to alleviate misery and poverty in Muslim society.

He also spoke of the need for Islamic nations to find ways and means to provide the Islamic Solidarity Fund, established by the OIC in 1974, with additional resources for its noble mission of helping millions of Muslims throughout the world.

Dr Hamid said Islamic nations had the necessary means to render the Islamic solidarity fund a powerful vector of its actions in favour of its most impoverished and unprovided for members. He also urged participants of

the seminar to make recommendations to help the board of the Islamic solidarity fund to collect Zakat funds to help Muslims who sought its assistance.

Among its many roles, the fund provides assistance to countries having Muslim minorities and communities during natural calamities or disasters and to assist the Palestinians, he added.

The three-day seminar, the first to be held outside Arab nations, was officially opened by the Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba.

Kuwait hosted the first seminar in 1984 followed by Saudi Arabia two years later. Meanwhile a senior official of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) suggested here today that there is a need to review the administrative and organisational systems of Zakat institutions to attain flexibility and efficiency in Zakat collection and disbursement to those who deserve it.

Fuad Abdullah Al Omar, the Jeddah-based deputy president of the bank, said in a paper tabled at the Third Zakat conference here, it was also necessary for those institutions to apply strategic planning in order to boost impact of this obligation and realised its social and economic objectives in the long run. He said the principle of efficiency in payment of Zakat and its disbursement to those who deserve it still posed a great challenge to Zakat institutions.

Channels "They should seek the assistance of charitable organisations

and committees and be more creative in finding channels for Zakat disbursement in a manner that would uproot the need for beggary," he said.

Fuad also noted the lack of awareness among the staff of Zakat institutions of some Zakat issues and called for consolidated efforts among them to train their workforce beside increasing qualified staff.

He said Zakat institutions should seek those methods of zakat collection and disbursement that would keep the cost of the staff engaged to those operations to the minimum including using modern technology such as computers.

Awareness "Zakat collection could be achieved by the withholdings of Zakat dues at source or through authorisation of other parties to make such withholdings and to forward the proceeds to Zakat accounts," he said.

Fuad said Muslims should be reminded of their religious financial obligations as it was one of the most important aspects of raising zakat proceeds.

He said raising public awareness of Zakat and its rules were considered very crucial to the success of current experience in the fields of Zakat collection whether the collections was voluntary or by force of law.

Fuad added Muslims should note that the diversity of modern economic transactions made it necessary for the Zakat institutions to respond to questions about linking Zakat to new financial transactions.

Special concern to scrap removal

KUWAIT Municipality pays special concern to the removal of scrap in accordance with scientific techniques to protect the environment. Khalifah Al Tomyan, the head of Scrap Backfill Division at the municipality said.

He added that his division deals with several types of wastes including house wastes, hospitals, slaughterhouses, farms, chemicals, lubricants and scrapped cars, in addition to construction wastes.

In an interview with the daily Al Seyassah, the official said that the municipality is undertaking a study to determine the feasibility and viability of recycling these large quantities of wastes. As an example he said that the municipality receives about 9,000 gallons of discarded lubricants and is co-ordinating the issue of recycling these lubricants with Kuwait Company for Manufacturing Lubricants.

In relation to house garbage, the official said that a large project to recycle these materials will soon be established. It is envisaged to transfer organic materials from these wastes into chemicals. The plant is to be set up at Amghara Area and the site is being developed in co-ordination with Kuwait Municipality, Industrial Investment Company and Kuwait Environment Protection Council.

With respect to hard scrap, the official said that the municipality is co-operating with Kuwait Industrial Investment Company who has conducted a study on the utilisation of such materials, the outcome of which will be published shortly.

US official meets Nawaf

KUWAIT, May 15, (Kuna): Kuwait's Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Jaber met here Tuesday with a top American national security council official.

Sheikh Nawaf and Richard Haas, assistant president of the NSC for Middle Eastern affairs, discussed bilateral issues and questions of common interests, an official statement said without elaborating further.

Haas arrived here earlier today in the framework of a tour to the Gulf region. He arrived here from Bahrain where he held a series of talks with top officials there.

Lady smokers hit back hard at critics

Anti-smoking campaign unheeded

LADY smokers hit back sharply at their critics stressing that feminine smoking is not a crime. They criticised the suspicious looks of society in Kuwait and said that they smoke because it's become "a fashion".

The ladies said that they are proud when they smoke. They feel more beautiful and feminine when a cigarette is lit between their lips. "It's the banner of freedom and civilisation and there is no harm in it," they added. Lady smokers in Kuwait also pointed out that society should change their attitude towards them. Smoking for ladies is normal and is a personal matter that applies to them as it applies to their male counterparts. They severely criticised anti-motivated propaganda against lady smokers.

Change Till recently, smoking by ladies has been regarded as unacceptable and a shame to Kuwait, though the number of lady smokers has always been on the increase. Now, things have dramatically changed. Ladies have begun to smoke freely in the streets, in front of their husbands and children. It's no more a shameful habit.

A report issued recently by the Kuwaiti Anti-Smoking and Cancer Society claimed that 34 per cent of university girl students are smokers. The society has been launching extensive anti-smoking campaigns and warnings of the dangerous health hazards smoking can cause to pregnant women and their babies. But it seems that such

campaigns are unheeded. Lady smokers are on the increase and even young girls in schools have begun smoking.

A 17-year-old secondary girl student said that she started smoking at the age of 14. The girl said that she picked up the habit from her older brother who frequently asked her to light his cigarettes. She said that she started smoking one or two cigarettes per day and increased the number gradually until she became a regular smoker. Now she smokes between one and a half to two packs of cigarettes a day. She admits that society does not accept a lady smoking. "Society considers smoking a shameful habit but I personally feel there is nothing to be ashamed about" the young girl emphasised.

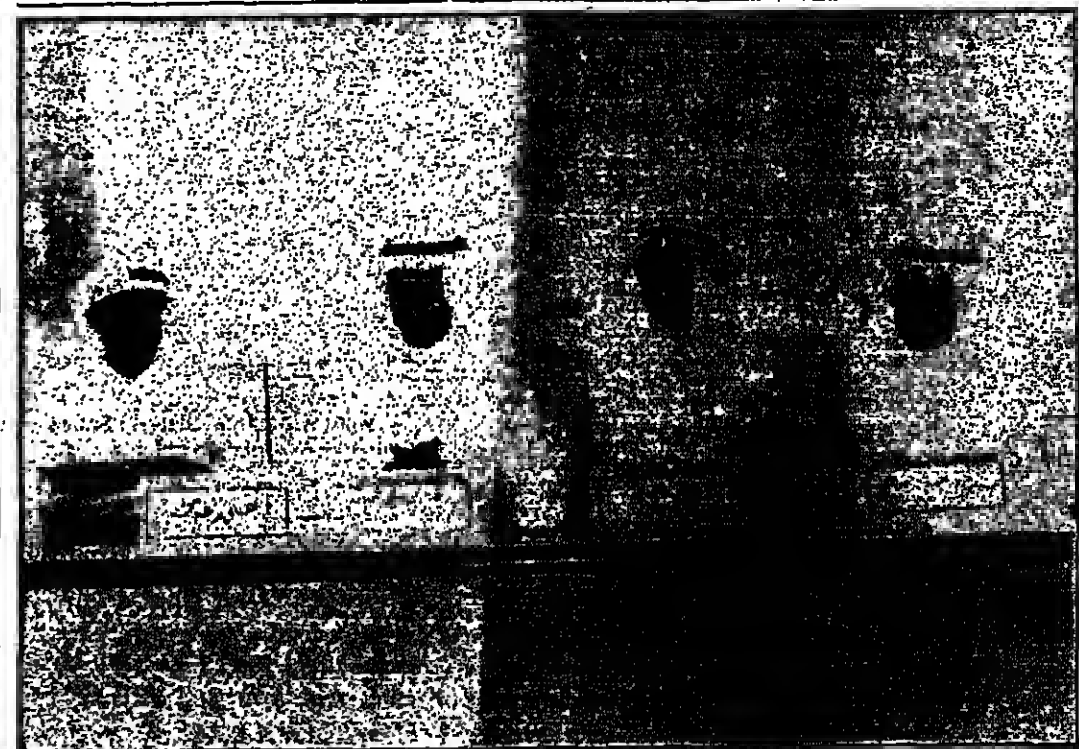
Courage Another lady said she started smoking at the age of 17. Now she is married and has one babygirl. The lady said that a "free" girlfriend of hers who studied in her class taught her how to smoke. In the beginning she smoked secretly and tried every means to avert anybody from smelling her. But after she joined the university she had the courage to smoke openly in front of all. This lady believes that a lady "looks more attractive with a cigarette. She attracts attention and admiration and all feel that she is educated, liberal and above all modern."

She said that a large group of her university colleagues smoke. "We were encouraging each

other and calling upon each other to fight against opponents and challenge them," the lady said. But even though she is liberated outside, she faces a big problem at home. She does not dare smoke in front of her brothers, whom she hears so frequently speaking "badly" against female smokers. She, however, condones to smoke in her room and then ensures proper ventilation to leave no trace of smoke.

Freedom Now after marriage the lady enjoys greater freedom. She smokes in front of all. The lady said that "I intentionally resort to more smoking particularly when I am in a group of friends sitting in a good restaurant." I don't feel shy or frightened. The lady said that she knows that the majority of the society here criticise lady smokers, but she doesn't care. These are simply old conservative views. The lady said that a number of her girlfriends also drink. She tried it once but did not like it. But she stressed that she can't quit smoking. "It's part of my life and its modern day fashion," the lady added.

Most lady smokers who greatly supported smoking were either school or university students. Though they stressed that smoking for them is an expression of liberty and freedom, they still feared smoking in front of their families particularly elder brothers. Some school students said they find school bathrooms the safest and do it frequently.



Officers training

Director-General of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training Abdul Rahman Al Muhallan opened Monday two training courses for Interior Ministry officers. Over 40 officers have joined the two courses on "Planning Manpower and Writing Reports."

Don't judge charter yet, says Shamlan

THE Minister of Higher Education Dr Ali Al Shamlan has said that nobody can judge the present academic charter (issued in 1986) before the graduation of the first batch of students. He added that the charter will be evaluated and studied by the deans committee, and the director of the university set up a committee to evaluate and study the charter that has some recommendations to amend some articles of the charter.

He added that students union had a representative in the committee that put these amendments which will be reviewed by the council of the university.

The committee adopted several opinions of the

students union specially the cancelling of warning assumed on the major. The warning will be given only for the general average, he said.

Commenting on the strike of the students to protest against the charter, Shamlan said that strike will not solve the problem. The strikes affect the academic and educational work and commented that students should wait for a while until the final amendments become clear.

"All what we did is a number of recommendations that will be reviewed by the council of the university. The administration of university does its best to protect interests of students and serve the educational work to develop standards of the university", he said.

Niqab drivers banned: Habib

MAJOR Ghiloom Habib of the Kuwait City Capital Patrols Department has said that under Interior Ministry regulations, Niqab-wearing women are banned from driving and that violations will result in the withdrawal of their driving licence and car registration preliminary to other punitive measures.

He said that the capital patrols are given a hard time by niqab-wearing drivers who insist on driving with only their eyes showing. He pointed out that the traffic policeman is authorised by law to check the identity of the driver.

He said that two or three tickets are issued to such drivers on a daily basis and the driver is referred to the relevant authorities at the traffic department.

Some women drivers fail to produce their licences and claim that they forget them at home. Driving licences should be in the possession of drivers while driving, the official said.



Concluding celebrations

Under the auspices of the undersecretary at the Ministry of Education Abdurrahman Al Khodari, the concluding celebration for Al Adiliya area schools was held recently at Saad Ben Obadah Primary School. The celebration was attended by a number of principals and headmistresses, in addition to senior officials and parents. Picture shows part of the celebration performed by children.

22,000 hajjis this year

By Fawzi Al Tamimi

ACCORDING to reliable sources at the Ministry of Awkaf and Islamic Affairs the number of hajjis this year has reached 22,000.

Sources at the ministry were quoted by Al Seyassah as saying that there are 12 registered hajj caravans for this season and that the Hajj Affairs Committee has issued the necessary certificates to the organisers of these caravans so that they could apply for leave with their employers.

The sources said that the ministry is extending all needed help to facilitate procedures for these caravans and that co-ordination in this respect has been effected with seven different government agencies.

They also said that the caravan organiser must deposit an amount of KD 10,000 in cash or in the form of a certified cheque drawn on one of the accredited local banks. The licensing of the hajj caravan stipulates that the minimum number of hajjis is not below 100 and maximum does not exceed 300.

UK-Bahrain to combat drugs

LONDON, May 15, (Reuters): Britain and Bahrain agreed yesterday to improve co-operation against drug trafficking, the first step of an accord that will allow them to trace and confiscate the proceeds of narcotics dealing.

A memorandum of understanding on their co-operation was signed in London by Home Secretary David Waddington and Bahraini Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammed Bin Khalifa Al Khalifa.

"Like the United Kingdom, Bahrain is an important financial centre and we regard it as a priority country with which to co-operate in the fight against the evil trade of drug trafficking," Waddington said.

The British Home Office said that when completed and brought into force, the future agreement will enhance mutual assistance between the two countries, and enable the respective authorities to co-operate in the tracing, freezing and confiscation of the proceeds of the proceeds drug trafficking.

The UK has so far concluded 13 bilateral

agreements on the confiscation of proceeds from drug trafficking, with countries among them: the US, Australia, Canada, the Bahamas, Spain and Nigeria.

After the signing ceremony Waddington stressed that Bahrain is an important financial centre "and we regard it as a priority country with which to co-operate in the fight against the evil trade of drug trafficking."

The British minister emphasised the importance of this agreement, saying it "highlights the degree of international co-operation in the fight against drugs, and continues the excellent progress we are making in building up a network of partnerships, in order to eliminate any safe havens abroad for those attempting to hoard their profits from trafficking."

The Bahraini minister is currently on an official visit to the UK, during which he is also meeting a number of other UK ministers to discuss methods of furthering bilateral co-operation.



Waddington (R) shakes hands with Sheikh Mohammed after signing the agreement.

Food producers, merchants discuss trade problems

Central marketing planned

OVER fifty local food dealers, merchants and producers met at the periodical meeting of the board of directors at the Kuwait Union of Food Merchants and Producers to discuss the problems and obstacles facing the food trade and industry in the country.

The chairman of the Union Abdullah Al Bajjan said that there is a thorough understanding by the chairman of the Union of

Co-operative Consumer Societies of the problems of food merchants and producers, particularly as regards the role of the union's pricing committee and the current state of world affairs.

He stressed the need for continued defence of the members' interests regarding the suspending issues, mainly those of returnables and damaged goods, delayed payment of dues, free goods and other

issues of importance.

He said that the last discussion with the municipal authorities served 80 per cent of the members' demand, stressing that the municipality officials showed full understanding of the union's requirements.

He pointed out that the Union managed to revise the rates of television ads in co-operation with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry. This resulted in the issuance

of a ministerial decision reducing advertising fees by half, in connection with the local products.

The establishment of the proposed central marketing company for undertaking the marketing of the union's members' products is currently under consideration and that it would be submitted for discussion at the next periodical meeting, the official said.

Britain welcomes Kuwaiti investments

Open trading policy: Wakeham

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times Staff

BRITISH Secretary of State for Energy, John Wakeham said yesterday that Britain welcomes and encourages Kuwaiti investments both in oil exploration and marketing outlets confirming that the BP affair, which for a time set the two countries on a collision course, had been put behind.

Wakeham left Kuwait yesterday after a two-day visit during which he held talks with Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa and the Minister of Electricity and Water Dr Humud Al Rqbah.

"Kuwait is very welcome to invest in the North Sea and in downstream activities in the UK if that is what they decide to do. We have an open market and open trading policy," Wakeham told a news conference prior to his departure.

It was similar statements taken literally that led Kuwait to buy a 21.7 per cent stake in British Petroleum.

Suspecting that Kuwait was not doing it only for commercial reasons as it contended, Britain asked the Gulf state to reduce its holding in BP to 9.9 per cent.

Kuwait did so, at a profit, and Kuwait's Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa was recently quoted as saying: "I don't regret it for one second."

Kuwait-owned Santa Fe company is prospecting for oil in the



Wakeham

North Sea and KPC (Kuwait Petroleum Corporation) has a network of service stations in Britain. KPC has targeted Britain and two other European states, Holland and Italy, where it faces tough competition for its expansion plans in Western Europe. The Kuwaitis are said to be eyeing Amoco's UK refinery and retail assets, including more service stations and a 70 per cent share of a refinery at Milford Haven.

Wakeham was accompanied by a retinue of British businessmen and oil experts who used the visit to identify the requirements for the planned \$2 billion petrochemicals complex in Kuwait. The minister said the British

government is encouraging the private sector to bid for contracts in consultancy, manufacture and supply of equipment.

Britain will be self-sufficient in oil up to the end of the century when it will diversify sources of energy supply. As it seeks to avoid dependence on any one source of energy it is not likely to become a major client of the Gulf oil producing states. Wakeham said the investment in nuclear energy, which accounts for 20 per cent of Britain's electricity requirements, will continue at present levels. A major nuclear power project is due for completion in 1994.

"I see an increase in the use of natural gas as the main extra source of fuel for power generation well into the next century. By then, I hope we will have dealt with some of the problems of nuclear power and that it comes back into being a sizeable contributor to our energy needs," said Wakeham.

In the long term he said coal could be used considerably depending on the improvements in coal technology.

The minister declined comment on topics related to Opec's pricing policy. "We want to see a reasonably stable market. We don't reckon that we can influence the prices of oil, we react to it," was the only comment he was willing to make.

Amir receives

KUWAIT, May 15, (Kuna): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Jaber received in audience today His Highness the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem and Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jaber.

HH also received Secretary-General of GCC's Council of Social Affairs Ministers Kamel Al Saleh.

The meeting was attended by the Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Nasser M. Al Ahmad and assistant under-secretary Abdelrahman Al Mazroui.

One-act play competition to begin tomorrow

INDIAN Counsellor R. S. Mukhija will Thursday open the IAC one-act play competition at the Indian Arts Circle, Founatras.

The drama competition, being held for the second time, will bring 16 troupes to the Kuwait stage.

Last year, the IAC organised the competition for the first time to bring diverse groups on one stage. It was so successful that the IAC decided to make it an annual event.

This year, one-act plays in seven Indian regional languages — Konkani, Telugu, Marathi, Malayalam, Hindi, Gujarati, Bengali and English — will be presented.

Three best plays will be selected; awards will also be given to the best actor, actress, child performer and director. An award will also be given for the best stage decor.

The plays will be performed on all days, except Fridays, at 7.30pm. On Fridays, the performance starts at 7pm. Performances dates are: May 17/18, May 23/24 and May 30 and 31.

Winners will be announced at an award presentation ceremony, which will be held on June 1.

New directory

THE Ministry of Communications will distribute the new telephone directory within this week. The new directory will include special chapters for different governments, car telephone numbers and fax numbers.

Iranian subs in action

NICOSIA, May 15, (Reuters): Iranian-made submarines made practice attacks on Tuesday during a naval and air exercise in the Gulf, Tehran radio reported.

The radio, monitored in Nicosia, also said gunboats practised tracking down fighter aircraft and warships tested their defence against chemical and bacteriological attacks during the manoeuvres.

Helicopters mounted mock attacks on ships and revolutionary guard speedboats fired on droves, it added.

Thousands of revolutionary guards and regular forces are taking part to the week-long exercise, code-named Sahand, which began on Sunday and will extend outside the Straits of Hormuz.

Western defence experts in the Middle East say Iran's submarines are small offshore vessels of limited capability and endurance.



DIOGO ROSARIO SEQUEIRA

(Winnipeg — Kuna) Expired on 15-5-90, K.O.C. Hospital. Beloved husband of Olivia Sequeira, loving father of Xavier, Angela & Ivy, father-in-law of Baltazar (K.O.C.), grand father of Abigail. (Body will be flown to India — Divor. Goa). There will be a requiem mass for the repose of his soul at St. Mary's Church on Thursday 17-5-90 at 5.00 pm. Relatives & friends kindly take this as only invitation.



Kanga with the May Queen winners

Goans crown May Queen

GOAN WELFARE SOCIETY organised its "May Queen Ball 1990" at the Habibah Grand Ballroom of the Messiah Beach Hotel, on May 10, from dusk to dawn.

The show was attended by a capacity crowd comprising of prominent Goans and other expatriates, who were entertained through the night by the "Top Ranks" at their best. Mrs Ishlah Roy as the compere kept the show going at full momentum.

The highlight of the evening was the crowning of the May Queen 1990. Thirty young beautiful participants contested for the coveted crown which was won by Miss Olga Fernandes.

The first and second runners-up were Miss Lila D'Souza and Miss Nina D'Souza respectively. The contest was judged by a

panel of judges comprising of Ray, Jace and Peter. P.R. Kanga, manager of Air-India, crowned the May Queen.

The winners were awarded several prizes including a free air ticket. Kuwaiti/Goan/Kuwaiti from Air-India, gold jewellery from Atlas Jewellers, video set, cosmetics sets from Al Khatib and 2 nights free stay at Hotel Goan Heritage, Goa.

The living competition was well participated and the winners were Christina/Glen D'Souza and Celina/Roy Fernandes.

Free air ticket to Europe offered by Balkan-Bulgaria Airlines was presented to Michael Diwan the holder of the lucky invitation card, by Joe E. Costa.

Several other prizes were distributed to the lucky invitation card holders, thus providing for a

lot of excitement.

Every guest was provided with several complimentarys from Rothmans and others.

The novelty dance got every guest on their feet and swinging. The prizes offered by Boushahi and Tanagra were awarded to Arvind/Diana, Agosio/Ana Rebello, Veronica/Daolel.

The well-selected and well-laid buffet in a separate room provided the guests ease and comfort to dine and dance uninterrupted.

A souvenir was released by the society to commemorate the occasion and outline their activities.

The show was sponsored by Rothmans. The society is grateful to the sponsors, the advertisers and all the guests for the success of the function.

Man gets 5 years RI for kidnapping

THE Criminal Court sentenced a man identified as A.H. to five years rigorous imprisonment for kidnapping and attempting to assault a young boy.

The court was told that the youth who suffers from partial mental retardation was reported missing to the police by the boy's father.

The police successfully managed to apprehend the suspect as he was driving in his pickup with the boy in a remote area in the desert. The suspect claimed in court that the boy had asked him to drop him in Jawaher Area in Sulabiya. However, police testified that they apprehended him in an area that was not in the direction proceeding to Jawaher.

THE court of First Instance ordered a British insurance company that has a branch in Kuwait to pay KD 1,500 as compensation to a woman who was injured in a traffic accident.

The woman claimed that she had a collision with another car that was insured with a British company and produced a medical report which indicated that she had suffered a fractured ankle and a fractured left arm. The medical committee estimated the disability at 5 per cent.

The woman had appealed to the court that she be granted compensation of KD 10,000, but the court in its deliberations took into account that the woman was partly responsible for the accident and awarded damage of KD 1,500.

THE court of Misdemeanours fined a man KD 50 for harassing a woman via the telephone.

The complainant said that the accused continually phoned her at home and her workplace, although she told him that she was married. On the day of the incident, she said that the accused waited outside her house and when she was walking into the street, caught hold of her hand and forcibly tried to entice her to enter his car.

JAHRA securitymen discovered a 12-kg haul of hashish buried in Umm Al Remam area. They first arrested a Jordanian national identified as Atallah N. on the charge of trading in narcotics. The man was trading in hashish selling it at KD 1,800 per kilogramme. He guided the police to his Kuwaiti companion, Abdullah M. and also guided them to the place he buried the hashish. The two accused were referred to investigation.

Indian exams

APRESS release from the Indian embassy in Kuwait has stated that Punjab University examinations for MA 4th semester (regular and re-appear) Public Administration will be held at the Indian embassy premises with effect from May 18, 1990 from 06.30 to 09.30 hours.

Coeerced candidates are advised to contact the embassy immediately.

Forged dollars

SHARJAH, May 15, (Kuna): Alertness of an Indian cashier at a money exchange office in downtown Sharjah foiled an attempt to exchange forged dollars with UAE dirhams.

Daily Al Khalij said today that the cashier suspected that the \$800 handed to him by two Omani youth were forged.

He managed to call to the Sharjah police who arrested the two youths and confiscated the dollars.

The two young men were referred to the public prosecution for investigation.

Entertainment City

DIRECTOR of Operations and Marketing at the Entertainment City Anwar Bou Rahma announced yesterday that the city gift for this week today is a dinner or lunch invitation at La Palma restaurant at the Kuwait International Hotel. The gift is given to the draw winner of city visitors who hold tickets. He added that a musical function will be held at the city today, Thursday and Friday.

Hussaini predicts Lebanese settlement

KUWAIT, May 15, (Kuna): Speaker of Lebanon's Chamber of Deputies Hussaini Al Hussaini has predicted that a settlement of the Lebanese crisis is possible this year and emphasized soundness of the Lebanese economy.

Hussaini, who is visiting Kuwait, made the remarks during a private dinner hosted by Lebanon's ambassador here attended by members of the Lebanese community.

He said the 15-year factional war had proved to the Lebanese that there is no alternative to constitutional rule and peaceful co-existence among the country's different factions.

"Forces opposed to return of legitimacy," Hussaini said "had started to weaken and degenerate from within and in all areas and had revealed themselves before the masses as self-conceited and money-makers."

Referring to the Taif accord, the parliament speaker disclosed that the higher Arab tripartite committee, which brokered the accord, has received guarantees from the five super powers in the UN Security Council on implementation of Resolution 425 calling for an Israeli troop withdrawal from South Lebanon, once a central authority is established in Beirut to extend government control over all Lebanon's territory.

Hussaini renewed his commitment to implement the Taif compromise formula as the way of restoring constitutional life in Lebanon and disarming all militias in the country.

Hussaini indicated that Lebanon's debts add up to about \$2 billion which can be easily repaid, pointing out that Lebanon gold reserves stand at \$5 billion to addition to \$45 billion deposited by Lebanese individuals abroad and \$3.5 billion deposited in Lebanese banks.

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Aussie sheep held at Suez

CAIRO, May 15, (Reuters): A shipload of 17,000 live Australian sheep, rejected as diseased by Saudi Arabia last week, is being prevented from passing through the Suez Canal, an Australian official said today.

"We are trying to convince the Egyptian authorities that the sheep do not represent a threat. But we understand their concern," he told Reuters.

The Saudis said the sheep had viral dermatitis, also known as scabby mouth disease. Australian officials say the disease is classified by the World Health Organisation as non-notifiable and is not considered a threat.

N. Yemen hopes to revive coffee trade

Mocha, the world's tastiest

NORTH YEMEN, May 15, (Reuters): North Yemen plans to revive cultivation of its once-renowned mocha coffee, the drink it introduced to Europe more than three centuries ago.

The booming trade which followed turned the country's southwest coast town of Mocha — the only place where the beans were available — into a prosperous port which at one time supplied Europeans with most of their coffee.

Mocha coffee today refers to other fine blends or simply coffee flavoured with chocolate.

Western agricultural experts say the country's rich mountain soil and low rainfall make its coffee beans, initially brought across the Red Sea from Ethiopia, among the world's tastiest.

But most Europeans have forgotten the original Mocha exists.

North Yemen no longer exports the precious beans and production has plummeted to 1,500 tonnes a year compared with 50,000 during the 19th century.

The villas of the rich merchants, who brought coffee from the mountains east of Mocha, have fallen into heaps of rubble and most of the historic town, now a tiny fishing village, is buried under layers of sand.

Historians say a Dutch trading company official who smuggled coffee seeds out of Mocha at the turn of the 17th century dealt a death blow to the Yemeni industry.

The plant was soon growing in the soil of Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) and Indonesia and European trading houses were controlling production

Contracts signed

The Public Works Minister Abdul Rahman Ibrahim Al Houli has signed three contracts with a number of local contractors to the total value of KD 2,428,000.

Under the first contract, electrical installations and related works will be executed in Bayan Palace, Work Stage II, in the amount of KD 1,481,000 within 530 days.

The second contract covers the HVAC, sanitary and fire-lighting Works Stage II in Bayan in the amount of KD 2,483,000 to last for 615 days.

The third contract involves the construction, completion, maintenance and expansion of a number of mosques in Kheitan Blocks 2 and 3 for the amount of KD 283,000 to last for 365 days.

4 IICF employees arrested in Kampala

KUWAIT, May 15, (Kuna): Director-General of the International Islamic Charitable Foundation Khalil Mohamed Hamad on Tuesday affirmed that its office in the Ugandan capital of Kampala is operating normally, despite the arrest of four of its employees including the regional manager.

Responding to news reports that some employees of the Kuwait-based foundation had

been arrested by Ugandan authorities, Hamad told Kuna that they were arrested on "personal issues" which has nothing to do with the foundation or its regional office.

Expressing hope that the arrested would be released soon, he stressed that the foundation's field of work was charity which it was very keen to carry out in collaboration with the Muslims and the concerned government authorities.

The reports quoted IICF's sources in Kampala as saying they were told that the search was in connection with the arrest last month of Ugandan Minister of Culture Ali Moses who is awaiting trial on a charge of treason.

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Mocha, the world's tastiest

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"Once they are making more money from the crop they will grow more of it," he said. Olivier said the main problem lay in standardising the quality of the beans, which are grown under varying conditions in small mountain farms.

"Yemen coffee is probably the best in the world but before we export we have to provide a stable quality," he said. Historians say the coffee plant was brought to Yemen across the Red Sea from Ethiopia more than five centuries ago.

Quality

THE ENGLISH SCHOOL AL SURRA

This small non-profit-making primary school provides a typically British educational environment for around 300 pupils from 3½ to 11 years of age.

A limited number of pupil places are available for September 1990. Applications are invited by 1st June for suitably-qualified children who would benefit from an English education.

The English School, P.O. Box 379, 13004 Safat, Kuwait. Telephone 5318155.

REQUIRED

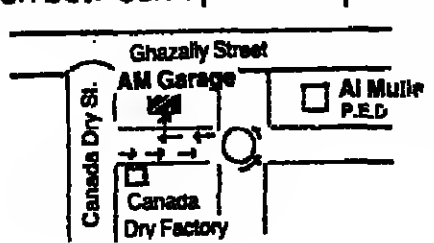
For a big Company a full time or part-time Economic Researcher

Must be a Diploma holder and have valid transferable residence. Please send bio-data, with educational and experience certificates and contact Tel. No. to P.O. Box 24430, Safat, 13105 Kuwait.

DRIVERS REQUIRED

Vacancies exist for Heavy and Light Duty drivers with transferable visa. Apply in person to the closest location between 1 pm and 5 pm to:

1. Mr. Tony Hills, Al Mulla Shuwelkh Garage, Off Canada Dry St.
2. Mr. Louis Lobo, Al Mulla Garage, Ahmadi Industrial Area Tel: 3980533



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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

THE best way to keep one's word is not to give it — Napoleon Bonaparte, French statesman.

Pluralism in demand African heads under pressure

NAIROBI, Kenya (CSM): Pressure for multiparty democracy is growing in Africa.

Less than six months after the crumbling of one-party states in Eastern Europe, a small but growing number of African leaders are facing demands to end their sometimes dictatorial rule.

Most African governments are run by the military or by authoritarian civilian leaders in one-party states.

The expanding pro-democracy movement in Africa has the drama seen in Eastern Europe, though on a smaller scale.

Mabieu Kerekou, president of the tiny West African nation of Benin since 1972, gave in last month in tears to massive public demands for his resignation. He keeps his title, but power is now in the hands of a reformist prime minister, who is expected to move toward multi-party elections.

In Gabon, another small West African nation, Omar Bongo, the president since 1967, has faced public strikes calling for multi-party democracy. Bongo recently agreed to move from one party to multiple parties — but only over five years. Reformists are not likely to be that patient.

In the Ivory Coast, President Felix Houphouët-Boigny, the country's only head of state since independence in 1960, has been facing a wave of strikes and unprecedented protests calling for democracy and his resignation. He has responded with force. Police have clubbed students, used tear gas, and detained professors.

Many other entrenched African leaders are also resisting calls for democracy.

"People who hold power don't normally want to give it up easily," says Ibrahim Gambari, newly appointed Nigerian ambassador to the United Nations. He says events in Eastern Europe encourage African leaders. People "listen to the BBC, the Voice of America, Radio Moscow, sometimes in their local language. They're fully aware of what's happening in Eastern Europe and they ask, 'Why not here?'"

As in Eastern Europe, growing discontent in Africa is due to the harsh, and declining, economic conditions, says Gambari.

Michael Schatzman, African studies scholar at Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies in Washington, agrees. "Authoritarian regimes simply have not been able to deliver the goods."

Accountability is another issue pushing reform, says Kenyan human rights attorney Kiraitu Murungi.

"Many Africans are now questioning the logic of having governments which are not accountable to the people."

One-party systems in Africa "give leaders a temptation to become virtual dictators," says Wangari Mathai, a Kenyan conservationist and outspoken advocate of freedom of speech. "I'm sure the leaders of Africa are watching (events in Eastern Europe)," she says. "Sooner or later... the population of Africa will say that can not take the dictatorship that one-party systems seem to bring."

Demands for change have been loudest and most pervasive in West Africa — in the Ivory Coast, Gabon, Cameroon, and Benin.

But earlier this month in Zaire, in Central Africa, Roman Catholic bishops and the country's sole trade union called for limits on presidential power. And the union recommended multi-party system.

In East Africa's Tanzania, former president Julius Nyerere, chairman of the country's sole political party, recently sparked public debate on the merits of multi-party systems by suggesting they might be appropriate. Nyerere is one of Africa's senior statesmen and its best-known champion of African socialism.

"Most people in Africa have not accepted this one-party system. They are forced to accept it," says Kenyan activist Mathai.

People should be free to discuss multi-party systems, adds outspoken Kenyan clergyman Timothy Njoya. "I'm not asking for abolition of one-party system, but it should be a choice rather than an imposition."

Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe, however, interprets the recent landslide victory for his party in elections two weeks ago as a mandate to continue making Zimbabwe a one-party state.

Yoweri Museveni, ruler of Uganda, has banned all parties and appears to favour some kind of one-party rule for the future.

Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi and Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda strongly defend one party rule, claiming that tribal and ethnic conflicts would get out of control if different tribes could oppose each other in different parties.

But the Weekly Review, an independent Kenyan magazine, noted recently that "critics of the one-party system point out that there are no (fewer) ethnic and tribal animosities in countries with one-party systems than those with multi-party systems."

Only a few African nations, including Algeria, Tunisia, Senegal, and Botswana, have multi-party systems now.

Nigeria's military government is trying to set up a two-party civilian system by 1992. And recently independent Namibia has started with a multi-party system.

What lies ahead? More and more African leaders are likely to be forced to adopt multi-party democracy, says Gambari. "I don't see the pressures ending," he says.

Governments could fall, but they might be replaced with military regimes, says Dr Schatzman. "Things can get worse."

His colleague at Johns Hopkins, William Zartman, says Africa may be in for a difficult period. "This is not the best time to begin democracy," he says. During the current economic crisis in most African nations, a move toward democracy is likely to result in "rising expectations" that probably can't be met, says Dr Zartman. And the result could be "people turning more to compete among themselves than getting down to the job of (economic) production," he says.

INSIDE WASHINGTON

By Henry Brandon

War rumoured in Soviet Union

Lithuanian situation test case

WASHINGTON: What is so extraordinary about talking to Soviet diplomats in the last few days is their frank talk about the dangers of civil war breaking out in the Soviet Union. One cannot be sure whether these warnings are primarily designed to convince the American government that concessions are called for in order to keep Gorbachev in power or whether they are indeed an expression of deep fears for the future of their country. My guess is that it is a bit of both.

The admission, however, must be hard for a Soviet diplomat used to represent what everybody considered one of the superpowers. This leading diplomat was particularly worried about the conflict with Lithuania. What troubled him most was that the Lithuanians would insist on conditions for their independence that were unacceptable to Moscow and would lead to the kind of confrontation that made military intervention and thus, civil war, inevitable. He reminded me of the military intervention that became necessary to put down a revolt in the strategic city of Baku which cost 23 lives and many wounded. By inference, though, he clearly meant to indicate that this was a possibility because Gorbachev could not afford, as he put it, a Lithuanian insurrection against the Soviet government. He stressed several times that the Lithuanian situation was a mighty test case and that the American government should not underestimate how crucial it could become for Gorbachev.

When I argued that President Bush, in everything he has done and said so far, has shown that he is well aware of how crucial this crisis was and is for the Soviet leader, he countered that he was afraid that internal political reasons and pressures from Congress might force him to take retaliatory actions that could seriously hurt American-Soviet relations.

He also made it clear to me that from Gorbachev's viewpoint the Lithuanian crisis was more crucial than Soviet-American relations. He meant to say that Gorbachev's survival depends much more on how he deals with the Lithuanians than how he deals with East-West relations.

American officials have come to realise this and are acting accordingly. In fact, in a combined and well co-ordinated effort, the Nato governments have been trying hard to impress on the Lithuanian government to follow a moderate course and to show greater flexibility in dealing with its decision to pursue political independence and to avoid the kind of actions that might lead to a clash with Soviet troops.

Concern

A former American ambassador to the Soviet Union, after a recent visit to his old stamping ground, aroused a great deal of concern here when he reported to high officials that the Soviet Union may soon be confronted by the threat of internal disintegration and mounting uncertainty about the political consequences. A similar message was conveyed by Marshal Sergei Akhromeyev, a top adviser to Gorbachev, on his visit to Washington last week when he said that growing Western anxieties about future Soviet political instability are well founded, even though the nation is still under Gorbachev's firm control. However, commenting on recent rumours that the Soviet military are disaffected he said: "Our military forces are reliable supporters of our president."

Next to Lithuania the question whether a united

Germany should become a member of Nato, as demanded by German Chancellor Kohl and other Nato members, present a serious embarrassment to the Soviet president. Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister, after at first saying "may be" is now opposing the idea. Most likely the military, who played a major part in defeating Nazi Germany, don't want to see Germany tipping the power balance in favour of the West and thereby creating the impression that it was the west which won the war.

However for the Soviet Union to maintain its opposition will be difficult. Making Germany a member of Nato and the Warsaw Pact, as Shevardnadze has suggested, is hardly practical since the Warsaw Pact is already in the process of disintegration and German neutrality as alternative is totally unacceptable to the allies. They do not want such a powerful country in the centre of Europe to be able to play the West against the East and vice-versa.

The Soviets are still maintaining over 300,000 troops on East German soil and can also claim to have residual rights in Berlin under the Four Power agreement. In the end, however, there is little they can do to prevent a united Germany from joining Nato. In exchange the allies plan to reassure Gorbachev that they will impose strict controls on Germany's military forces, that they will oppose it acquiring nuclear weapons and that German national forces must be organised in a defensive mode only. The two sides are also bound to agree on a transitional period, possibly five years, during which the Russians will be permitted to keep a limited number of their troops on East German soil. I have every reason to believe that the allies will insist on a united Germany being integrated into Nato. However, as one high American official put it to "Nato will have to reflect that a new order has set in, that the role of containing the Soviet Union is outdated and that its new role will be to create stability in Europe, a role we want to develop in co-operation with Moscow. In its function as a stabiliser it will also function as a hedge against any accidents."

Tension

Further tension is developing between the Bush administration and the Israeli government. Behind the scenes Washington has made it clear to Israeli officials that it is opposed to a right-wing government under Shamir because it would make it impossible to pursue negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation. Washington is also worried that the settling of the new immigrants from the Soviet Union on the West Bank not only goes against the assurances Israel gave the United States, but that it will be another factor hampering the "peace process."

There have been some half a dozen Israeli moves which have not only angered the Bush administration, but many members of Congress too. It makes it increasingly difficult for Israel's friends in Congress to provide the kind of almost unquestioned support the Israeli government has enjoyed for so long and continues to expect. The test will come when the Senate comes to vote on the additional \$400 million aid request for Israel. The Bush administration has not been very generous in offering foreign aid and finds itself in a bind contributing to the European aid package for Eastern Europe without cutting

allocations to the two principal aid recipients, Israel and Egypt.

A leading Soviet intellectual, visiting the United States, was asked recently why Jews are emigrating in droves from the Soviet Union and why the old prejudices have seemingly not been influenced by Gorbachev's more liberal outlook.

In reply he said the following:

Anti-Semitism has always existed and led to extremes such as pogroms. It remains a big problem. One reason that it has become more acute under Gorbachev is that people are not anymore afraid to speak their mind freely. At least among the older generation there is a belief that Jews are responsible for the communist revolution. Karl Marx was a Jew and so was Trotsky and they are blamed for having invented communism which was hostile to Russian nationalism. Therefore Jews were and still are being accused of having undermined Russian power and the Tsars. In the minds of many Russians today anti-Marxism has reawakened anti-Semitism. It explains why Jews feel so uncomfortable and want to leave the Soviet Union before the re-awakening becomes a wave.

Summit

So far the prospect of the Bush-Gorbachev summit meeting has failed to accelerate agreement on an arms control package. There is no doubt that both sides want a Start agreement, but there are still a number of issues that have not been resolved and primarily because the Soviets are less inclined to make concessions. The only arms control protocol ready for signature will deal with chemical weapons now that Bush has agreed to their almost total destruction.

One of the issues that caused a great deal of trouble was agreement on how to destroy chemical weapons and how to make certain that all but two per cent will be eliminated. The Soviets finally admitted that they lack some of the technology to destroy these weapons and to meet this problem the United States has agreed to provide whatever help will be needed. The reason both sides will be allowed to retain two per cent in storage is as a protection against countries, especially in the Middle East, which are known to possess chemical weapons and, may be reluctant to give them up.

Bush's willingness to raise taxes (not income taxes) has come as an enormous relief to Congress and the American business and financial community. He finally recognised that the budget deficit has assumed proportions that some experts believe could reach 200 billion by the end of this year and could bring on the need for budget cuts nobody wants to contemplate because of the impact they would have on the overall economy. There is something paradoxical about raising taxes in order to prevent a recession, but that is indeed the reason for his more open mind about new taxes. He could, as an alternative, have opted for the automatic budget cuts under the so-called Graham-Rudman resolution.

This would mean cutting the budget deficit to 65 billion, but with a projected deficit of between 150 to 200 billion it would be a target almost impossible to attain. It would require the kind of drastic cuts in defense expenditures, Bush believes, could seriously hurt American security and American industry. The general assumption is that he can cut thirty to \$40 billion without risking a recession.

'Barrier' still remains in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG, (Reuters): Master.

Thirteen years on, much has changed in South Africa, but a lot remains the same and that awful word still constricts human relationships.

Blacks are more confident now than when this writer first reported on South Africa in 1977, a year after Soweto riots set change in motion. They look the white in the eye in a way they rarely did then.

Returning after a decade, it is apparent that although race relations have eased considerably and intermingling has become commonplace in public most whites still meet blacks on a personal level as boss and worker, master or madam and servant.

Little brass bells tinkled at table by whites still are answered with a humble "Yes, master?"

Nelson Mandela, the celebrated prisoner of Robben Island in 1977, now is free and — unimaginable then — his face adorns a million pictures and T-shirts in street markets and shops.

But he bemoans the barrier that still stands before a truly non-racial future: "The deadly weight of the terrible tradition of a 'dialogue' between master and servant."

The white boss — "bass" in Afrikaans — still seems equally a prisoner of this unbalanced relationship, even more so as blacks become liberated.

In his select suburb, he shelters behind thick walls, razor wire and watchdogs, turning the back of his home to the overwhelmingly black world outside for fear it breaks in.

Johannesburg, the gold rush city, was always rough, tough and frontierlike. But as crime rises with mass expectations, the white community, even more than in the seventies, shows a face terrified of murder, rape, beating or burglary.

Every home has a guard system, every purse a panic button, every car its own infra-red cordons and the cities warble to their alarm sounds. Prosperity is the other white face and it looks even richer than in 1977, despite punitive sanctions.

The shiny malls with their designer shops would be familiar in America. There are more BMWs, Mercedes and Rolls Royces per kerbside than in New York.

Cheap black labour still lies underneath. Even in modern cities roads are maintained by "Afromatics" — black gangs working under the stare of a lone white boss — although in most restaurants now vacuum cleaners have replaced blacks on their knees who used to brush the carpets at the feet of white diners.



Letters to the editor

Wrong protection

SIR: This refers to the letter "Beauty contest" in your daily of May 10, 1990, by Dr Dominic Sanches who bails from Dubai, which depicts his over-enthusiasm to read the Arab Times daily from Kuwait (probably due to shortage of news and excitement in Dubai).

I would like to shed light on this issue, by mentioning that I too was present for the said contest in Goa and very readily accept the fact stated by Jacinto Diaz and Lawrence D'Souza (AT dated April 29, 1990).

Dr Sanches undoubtedly got excited and exploded his judgements — doctrines on seeing is believing in meetings at first sight and true facts stated in the said letters, either to show his booster dose level or must have got carried away by the wind.

Rego is definitely in a dilemma on this make-believe episode of Miss Susan Rego and has called upon his agents in Dubai and God knows where to in order to preserve his daughter's name.

I believe Miss Susan is a very talented lady and I wish her all the best but do not project an image that does not rightfully belong to her but earn it in a better way to

prevent unnecessary journalism and avoid criticism otherwise you could be starting a Miss Pamela Bordes issue once again.

Dr Elias Furtado M.D.,
Safat.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Ivana can't go out without her Trump

IT'S time for another mail call. As you will note, I have only answered questions that were accompanied by a self-addressed envelope.

I read where Ivana Trump cannot go out on dates without Donald. If I take her out, do I have to pay?

No. Under the terms of the agreement, Mr Trump must pick up the tab.

What were Greta Garbo's last words?

"I want to be buried with all the people."

How much time can you get if you stick up a savings and loan bank with a gun?

Anywhere from 10 to 20 years, depending on the judge.

How much can you get if you were an S&L president who ran off with all the money?

You can get one year on the beach in Rio de Janeiro, six months on the ski slopes in St Moritz or three months at the Hotel de Paris in Monte Carlo — breakfast included.

Sing
If Imelda Marcos owns half of New York, why won't they let her sing with the Metropolitan Opera Company?

When in New York Imelda prefers to go shopping.

I thought that the Stealth bomber was supposed to be a secret, but in order to get funding for the plane details about it were given to Congress. If it is no longer a secret, why are we still building it?

The Pentagon will not answer that because it is the only secret they have left.

Does Margaret Thatcher tell her own jokes or does somebody write them for her?

Thatcher tells her own jokes, which is why the people love her so much. Her last one about the poll tax broke up the population for days.

Why do the French think Libyan leader Khaddafi is peachy keen?

Because Khaddafi arranged for the return of two hostages and a baby who had been kept by terrorists for three years. To show their gratitude, the French gave Khaddafi Chad, three French jets, an oil tanker filled with French perfume, and a promise of the Legion of Honour if he didn't blow up any French embassies.

Famous

Andy Warhol said that everybody should be famous for 15 minutes. When is Louis Farrakhan's time up?

It's up.

For many years I have drunk Perrier with benzene. Now I understand that Perrier no longer contains benzene. What do I do?

Your empty Perrier bottle to the hardware store.

Is Mayor Barry a good mayor with a bad habit or a bad mayor with a bad habit?

Mayor Barry is trying to rid himself of his bad habits and stress his good ones. A good Mayor Barry would be wonderful for Washington, but a bad Mayor Barry would not be any better than the one we have now.

Trade

Will Michael Milken learn a trade if he is sent to prison?

Speculation has it that Milken will be assigned to either turn junkbonds into license plates or license plates into junkbonds — whichever the state needs more of at the time.

I saw Maria Maples on the Diane Sawyer show and she looked like a very nice person. I couldn't believe that she would break up Ivana's family, steal Donald's affections and tell the New York Post that Trump was the best sex she ever had.

If you had listened closely, you'd have realized she did not break up a home or steal Donald's affections. Friends say that she just happened to be the right woman in the right place at the right time. As for saying that Trump was the best sex she ever had — New Jersey women say that about rich men all the time. Even ladies who don't know Donald Trump tell it to their friends just to live up to their luncheon conversation. Los Angeles Times Syndicate

QUOTE ME

6 "Under the influence of deep transformation in the Soviet Union, there have been considerable positive changes in international affairs. Dialogue is taking the place of confrontation. But at the same time, the military threat remains. In these conditions the Soviet Union maintains its military preparedness at the necessary and sufficient level and is carrying out a radical transformation of its defence capacity, all of which constitutes military reform." — Soviet Defence Minister Dmitry Yazov at a parade commemorating the defeat of Nazi Germany.

"Terrorists cannot be rewarded for the blows they strike at Frank Reed's body, nor can they believe that taking more hostages will yield negotiations and political benefit." — White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater on Frank Reed's appeal for negotiation with the hostage-takers.

"We welcome this announcement. We are pleased that the official announcement contained the names of six of those released. We believe that the interests of all parties would be best served by a full public accounting of the number and identity of those detained as well as those released." — A State Department official on the release of pro-democracy activists in China.

"I know eventually I'll be the champ again. Losing the title is a lot like being divorced. You still love the person, still have feelings for them, but you don't get the same treatment." — Mike Tyson.

"We will continue the struggle against right-wing extremism and anti-Semitism, with all our might. This has been the case in West Germany for 40 years... and it won't change in a unified Germany." — West German Interior Minister to the final session of the World Jewish Congress.

"This is the first chance right on site for you reporters to compare Mike Tyson and George Foreman. I know I'm going to have a tough fight coming up, but the big fight is going to be Mike Tyson and George Foreman. Forget the masked name. Buster 'do-do', whatever his name is. He says he doesn't want to get back in the ring, and then he shows up hugging and squeezing Hulk Hogan. I still think Mike Tyson is the real champion. And I want Mike Tyson." — George Foreman who will be fighting on the undercard of the Tyson-Tilman fight.

"It's been a bit of a struggle over the years, but we're thrilled to bits that you're finally standing on top of the old mountain. Congratulations to you all. I think everybody here is delighted at your success." — Sir Edmund Hillary congratulating his son by phone when the son climbed to the top of the Mt Everest.

"Arum's 'devotion' names has brought out the best in him, and now he's looking forward to good results working with his former foe. To play the piano, you have to play the black keys and the white keys to get a melody." — Don King on Bob Arum, co-promoter of the Tyson-Tilman bout.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1568 — Mary Queen of Scots takes refuge in England.

1596 — Spanish stronghold of La Fere capitulates to French.

1770 — Marie Antoinette is wed to France King's Louis XVI.

1896 — Lombardic republic is established in Italy.

1884 — Napoleon Bonaparte is proclaimed emperor of the French Senate and Tribunal.

1811 — British forces halt drive of French under Nicholas Soult at Albuhera, Spain.

1907 — Pact of Cartagena between Britain, France and Spain to counter German designs on Balearic and Canary Islands.

1932 — Japan's premier Tsuyoshi Inukai is assassinated in Tokyo.

1962 — US Marines begin arriving in Thailand to help defend that country against communist threat in neighbouring Laos.

1963 — Chief Enahoro of Nigeria is deported from Britain; India-Pakistan talks on Kashmir break down.

1969 — Soviet space ship reaches vicinity of planet Venus and drops capsule that sends back information on planet's atmosphere.

1976 — Civil war in Lebanon reaches new peak of violence with scores of people killed in fighting between Christians and Muslims in Beirut.

1976 — Police in El Salvador seal off capital after 10 days of violence by anti-government terrorists takes 44 lives.

1987 — Leader of military coup in Fiji calls for new constitution to prevent an Indian-dominated government from ever ruling Fiji.

1988 — Security forces step up pressure on Sikh extremists holed up in Golden Temple in Amritsar, India.

1989 — Hundreds of thousands from all walks of life arrive in Beijing, China, to support college students fasting for freedom in Tiananmen Square.

Threat to kill more

NPA claims responsibility for Clark airmen

MANILA, May 15, (Reuters): The communist New People's Army claimed responsibility today for killing two American airmen at the weekend and said there would be more attacks until US troops were withdrawn from the Philippines. In a statement sent to news agencies, the guerrillas said the United States had stepped up intervention in Philippine affairs and treated Filipinos with contempt.

They renewed an offer of a ceasefire in their 21-year-old insurgency in return for removal of US military facilities, including Clark air base and Subic Bay naval station.

In exploratory talks with the United States about the future of the bases today, the Philippines served formal notice that it would end its current bases agreement with Washington next year, but left the door open for a fresh accord.



With posters and demonstrations, opponents of the US bases in the Philippines have mounted a strident campaign as negotiations on the future of the bases progress.

Police say a suspected five-man guerrilla assassination squad killed US airmen James Green, 21, of Craig, Colorado, and John Raven, 22, of Gallup, New Mexico, near Clark air base north of Manila on Sunday night just before the talks opened.

The rebel statement, from the Central Luzon Command, said it had "punished" the two Americans.

"This incident serves as a warning to the US government and its local puppet regime. We will not stop until abuses by American officers and soldiers have ceased. We will not stop until all US bases and all American occupation soldiers are kicked out of the country," the statement declared.

"We will not stop until US imperialism has been finally driven out of our shores," it said. Communist rebels are believed responsible for the deaths of at least 10 Americans in the Philippines since 1987.

The statement did not claim responsibility for the killing of US Marine Gunnery Sergeant John Fredette, shot earlier this month outside Subic Bay naval base.

US officials said today that security around American military facilities in the Philippines would be high on the agenda in current talks with Manila over the future of the bases.

Police in Olongapo, west of Manila, said a retired US serviceman was stabbed by an unknown assailant near Subic Bay naval base last evening. His condition was not known.

President Corazon Aquino said yesterday that her government was taking all necessary measures to protect the 40,000 American military personnel and dependents in the country.

The United States said it would not be cowed by the killings. "We will not be intimidated by terrorism," US Ambassador Nicholas Platt said in a statement.

Philippine demonstrators opposed to the bases staged a day of protests in Manila yesterday. At least 55 people were injured, including 25 policemen, and 80 arrested during the street clashes.

A leading senator opposed to the bases urged Filipinos to mount "people power" protests in the streets to persuade Manila to reject a renewal of the bases agreement, which expires in September next year.

But some Filipinos, including town mayors and bar girls, support the bases for the economic benefits they bring to local communities.

In Washington, a senior US defence official suggested that increased joint use of the bases coupled with more US military aid to Manila might be an acceptable compromise.



Home to 18,000 US servicemen, Clark Air Base and Subic Bay Naval Station in the Philippines are the largest employers after the Filipino government.

Era of confrontation is over

No need for US bases on Philippine soil

MANILA, May 15, (WNL): "The world is unchanging. Everything has changed, all the old signposts are gone," says the compact, animated woman as she takes a break from a seemingly endless evening session of the Philippine Senate.

"I mean, who is the threat now?" she asks. "China? Japan? I think we have to talk to them. The era of confrontation is over."

Leticia Ramos Shahani — head of the Philippine Senate Foreign Relations Committee, doctor of comparative literature, former ambassador and United Nations official, sister of Defence Secretary Fidel V. Ramos — thinks there's no longer any reason to have US military bases on Philippine soil. Siding with her is a majority of the 23-member Senate, which must approve any new agreement on the bases.

With negotiations under way on what will happen after the current \$481 million a year lease agreement expires, it seems that emotions are speaking louder than facts in Filipino political circles. After asking for yearly payments of \$2 billion a year as rent for two bases — Clark Air Base and Subic Bay Naval Base — home to about 18,000 US servicemen, most local politicians are now seeing the bases as the superfluous symbol of an unequal "special relationship" between Washington and Manila.

While other countries in Southeast Asia view the presence of US military facilities here as a regional security issue, to many Filipinos — from peasants to coup-plotters to mainstream politicians — it has always been tied up with wrenching questions about national identity. And while the financial, strategic and social impact of the bases still inspires heated debate — the bases produce five per cent of the country's gross national product and are the largest employer after the government — discussions of the issues almost always boil down to the word "sovereignty."

"Unfortunately, what the Americans don't understand is that their presence here is overwhelming," Shahani, a moderate member of President Corazon Aquino's ruling coalition, says. She adds that the removal of the bases might be just the challenge her country needs. The

Philippines, once one of Asia's richest countries, has failed to develop significantly since the 1950s, in spite of billions of dollars in aid from the United States and other donors.

Shahani scoffs at those who believe that Filipino politicians, in their vocal opposition to the continuation of the bases agreement, are merely bluffing in order to get more money. "We're not talking in terms of compensation," she says. "Sovereignty is the overriding issue. Although we are poor, we won't collapse when the bases leave. We will suffer maybe, but we won't disappear under the sea."

Paradoxically, as Filipino politicians turn on the heat to get rid of the bases, they may find that there is no pot to boil: As part of its policy of cutting overseas troops and reducing its military budget \$200 billion is to be chopped out of the military services programmes by 1997 — the US is already looking to alternatives to maintaining the Clark and Subic bases. The US Pacific Command has even drawn up plans to pull out within a year and relocate some facilities to Guam.

Experts say that the Clark Air Base could be replicated relatively cheaply, but relocating facilities at Subic Bay would be more costly; the naval base can support combat operations of several carrier battle groups and logistics for naval operations throughout the Western Pacific and Indian Oceans.

Besides the Philippines, the US military presence in East Asia and the Pacific consists of about 50,000 troops in Japan and 43,000 in South Korea. After a recent trip to Asia, US Secretary of Defence Dick Cheney announced that both countries had agreed to a 10 per cent cut in troops stationed there. Also, Tokyo will increase its share of the \$7.5 billion cost of maintaining US forces in Japan to more than 40 per cent.

US troops will also be cut in Western Europe, and at home, Congress is debating the closing of about 120 military bases within the US.

The prospect of seeing a much-reduced US military presence in the Pacific is disquieting for newly prosperous Asian

nations. While the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) has made no formal statement on the Philippines bases, individual countries have indicated their desire to see a strong US profile in the region. Reasons range from a fear of Chinese and North Korean military expansion to a concern that Japan's economic dominance may extend into the military vacuum left by the American departure.

For Senator Shahani, Philippine concerns should come before regional concerns, although she acknowledges that there are important security issues to confront. "We have to talk about an international convention to guard our sea lanes, it's that's what the stronger powers are afraid of," she says.

The Philippine concern about sovereignty and identity goes back many years. The archipelago became an American colony in 1899, at a time when nationalists had just wrested power from Spain which left a legacy of political dominance by a small circle of the very rich — mostly landowners with massive holdings. Independence was secured in 1946 and the first agreement on the bases was signed a year later. Periodic reviews produced a series of amendments, the last one dating back to 1988, when after much nationalist posturing the negotiations came to centre on the question of money.

The "compensation package" is still a major area of disagreement between the US and the Philippines — not only the level of compensation, but the definition as well. While Japan and South Korea pay a substantial portion of the costs of supporting the US presence in their countries, the Philippines is the third largest recipient of US aid.

Under the 1988 agreement renewal guaranteeing \$481 million a year plus other aid, the Philippines is receiving \$200 million for military assistance programmes, \$160 million for an economic support fund, \$40 million for development assistance, \$50 million for food aid, \$25 million for housing investment, and \$6 million for transport projects.

Surprise Manila move on bases

(Continued from Page 1)

In Manila, US and Philippine officials began a second day of talks aimed at deciding whether to open formal negotiations on a new bases agreement.

In a surprise move, Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus, the chief Philippine delegate, presented a formal "notice of termination" for Clark air base, the Subic Bay naval base and the four smaller US installations.

"The government of the Philippines hereby notifies the government of the United States of America that the 1947 Philippines-American States military bases agreement ends on Sept 16, 1991, and cannot be extended," the notice said.

Rafael Alunan, spokesman for the Philippine panel, said the notice, given by Manglapus to chief US negotiator Richard Armitage, did not rule out a new bases agreement.

"Our constitution mandates it to be open to new ideas, to lead us to a new negotiation for a new treaty," Alunan said. "It does not preclude new negotiations for a new treaty."

Although largely symbolic, the move underscored differences between the two governments over when the bases must close if no new agreement is reached.

The Philippines maintains the current agreement allows the bases to remain until Sept 16, 1991. The United States claims they could stay one year longer.

Stanley Schragar, spokesman for the US panel, said American negotiators were surprised by the timing of the notice. The United States hopes a new agreement can be reached before September 1991, making the difference of opinion on the expiration date a moot point.

The 1947 military bases agreement owed the United States to maintain installations here for 99 years. In 56, the agreement was amended so that the pact would remain in force "25 more years subject" to termination upon one year's notice by either government.

According to the US interpretation, the Philippines would have to give one year's notice. In 1986, a few months after Mrs Aquino took office, the constitution is rewritten to state that "after expiration in 1991 of the agreement concerning military bases, foreign military bases, troops or facilities shall not be allowed in the Philippines" unless provided for under a new treaty.

Philippine officials say the new constitution supersedes the 1966 irrevocable.

US spokesman Stanley Schragar said he did not regard the formal termination notice as meaning the United States would abandon its giant bases at Clark and Subic.

But Manila spokesman said during the same briefing that the termination notice implied US withdrawal from the bases unless a new pact was in place.

Schragar said he hoped the exploratory talks on the bases would not last more than a week, and would set the stage for formal negotiations.

He said there was a disagreement over when the current agreement expired. But he said the United States hoped to avoid a confrontation over the date.

"Today, 15 May, 1990, marks an historic moment for all Filipinos. We have taken that first step in terminating an agreement that was executed in 1947 during the days of lingering US colonialism in the Philippines," Alunan declared.

It signalled Philippine resolve "to chart a new and truly independent course in which all dealings with foreign governments shall uphold the dignity and sovereignty of the Philippines," he added.

Hamilton granted 'trial immunity'

Imelda fraud trial

NEW YORK, May 15, (AP): A judge granted immunity to George Hamilton to compel the actor to testify at Imelda Marcos' fraud trial. US district judge John F. Keenan said in his order that prosecutors sought immunity because Hamilton had indicated he would invoke his fifth amendment right not to answer questions that might incriminate him.

Hamilton, who has been named as an unindicted co-conspirator in the case, could testify as early as possible. With immunity, he cannot be prosecuted for any wrongdoing but must tell the truth or face perjury charges.

An unindicted co-conspirator is someone who prosecutors claim took some step that advanced a conspiracy but is not charged with a crime.

Hamilton, who played a vampire in the movie comedy "Love

At First Bite," is a friend of the former Philippine first lady. Mrs Marcos, 60, is accused of helping her late husband, former Philippine president Ferdinand Marcos, loot their nation's treasury of more than \$220 million to secretly buy four New York buildings and artwork.

Marcos, who also was indicted, died in exile in Hawaii in September. He was ousted as president in a popular revolt in 1986.

Hamilton was mentioned in testimony as having accompanied Mrs Marcos to view an art collection in New York that the Marcoses allegedly purchased with stolen funds.

Mrs Marcos is charged with racketeering, conspiracy, mail fraud and obstruction.

Her co-defendant, Saudi financier Adnan Khashoggi, is charged with fraud and obstruction for allegedly helping the Marcoses hide their ownership of the four buildings and art.

American stabbed near Subic base

OLONGAPO, Philippines, May 15, (Reuters): Philippine police arrested an alleged drug addict who has confessed to stabbing a retired American serviceman near the US Subic Bay naval base west of Manila, a police spokesman said today.

He said the man confessed after his arrest to attacking American Richard Rhodes outside a bar in Olongapo city, 80 km (50 miles) west of Manila, shortly before midnight yesterday.

A Subic spokesman said Rhodes survived the assault and was in stable condition in hospital at the base.

He said there was no indication the attack was politically motivated or related to exploratory talks in Manila on the future of US military bases in the country.

Witnesses described the 26-

year-old alleged assailant as "not in his right senses."

It was the second attack on Americans near Subic recently. A US marine sergeant was shot dead in Olongapo city 10 days ago. Police charged two alleged drug addicts with the killing but a prosecutor dismissed the charges for lack of evidence.

US authorities suspended leave for all 40,000 servicemen, defence personnel and their dependants in the Philippines after the murder of two US airmen outside Clark Air Base in neighbouring Pampanga province on Sunday.

The two airmen were shot dead by suspected communist guerrillas outside a hotel. The guerrillas say they will step up attacks on US personnel unless the American bases are removed from the country.

Witnesses described the 26-

Air raid on Reds: 63 killed

TACLOBAN, Philippines, May 15, (Reuters): Helicopter gunships and light bomber aircraft pounded a communist guerrilla camp in central Philippines killing 63 rebels, the military said today.

Area commander Brigadier-General Vicente Garcia said one soldier was killed in Monday's assault in the mountains of Hilongos municipality on Leyte island, 500 km (310 miles) southeast of Manila.

Garcia told reporters the casualty figures were based on a body count. The toll could not be independently verified.

Troops assaulted the rebel camp after the aerial bombardment, the military said.

Manila bases talks can affect US presence in Pacific

HONG KONG, May 15, (Reuters): Talks in Manila between US and Philippine negotiators on the future of big local American naval and air force bases could have a major impact on reshaping Washington's larger defence network in the region.

US military presence in the Asia-Pacific region stretches across one-half the surface of the globe, covering vast areas of ocean in the Northern and Southern Hemispheres.

The Pentagon has said it is drawing up plans to cut the total 120,000 American troops in the region by 10 to 12 per cent, to save money at a time of reduced superpower tension.

Following is a summary of the main US forces in the Asia-Pacific area:

Philippines: There are about 17,000 US servicemen and women stationed in the Philippines, mainly at Subic Bay Naval Base and Clark Air Force Base. Washington considers the two

bases — America's biggest overseas — key to regional security. Subic serves the US seventh fleet. There are four smaller US facilities.

Japan: The US air force operates three major bases, one at Kadena on the southern island of Okinawa, another at Yokota outside Tokyo and a third at Misawa in northern Japan.

The US army maintains a support unit near Tokyo for its troops in South Korea. The navy keeps two major bases — Sasebo

in western Japan and Yokosuka south of Tokyo. A division of the US marine corps is deployed on Okinawa and the marines keep an aircraft unit in Iwakuni, western Japan. There are 49,000 US servicemen and women stationed in Japan, including roughly 10 per cent army, 40 per cent marines, 25 per cent navy and 25 air force.

South Korea: There are about 44,000 US military personnel at several bases in South Korea. These include mostly army, but

also air force and navy. Seoul and Washington have agreed that 7,000 US army and air force personnel be pulled out by 1992 and more later on.

Singapore: Singapore provides refueling and repairs for US warships and allows transport aircraft to use the tiny airbase for transit. It has offered Washington greater access to its facilities to encourage continued US military presence in the region, but analysts say Singapore is big enough to host only

a few warships and one or two F-16 squadrons on a rotational basis.

Australia: The United States maintains three joint defence bases with Australia at Nurrungar, Pine Gap and North West Cape. North West Cape monitors submarines in the Indian Ocean and western Pacific. The installations at Nurrungar and North West Cape perform intelligence gathering and act as early warning and arms control verification bases. Some Aus-

tralian work at the bases, but the personnel is mainly US and the overall command is American.

Guam: This small Pacific island, 6,000 miles west of California and only four hours' flight from Tokyo, is the United States' westernmost territory. It hosts Andersen Air Force Base, headquarters of the US Eighth Air Force, a naval station, a ship repair unit and a naval communications facility for the western Pacific.

Crisis creating new tensions among India's 100m Muslims

'The loss of Kashmir would be a nightmare'

NEW DELHI, May 15: India's deepening crisis in Kashmir is creating new tensions among its 100 million Muslims.

A huge minority and the world's third largest Islamic community, Indian Muslims have distanced themselves from the separatist cause of Kashmir.

"The loss of Kashmir would be a nightmare for Muslims," says Bashiruddin Ahmed, an analyst at the Centre for Policy Research in New Delhi.

"The run-of-the-mill Muslim doesn't feel any ties to the Kashmiri cause. To fact, the Muslims have come to believe that Kashmir being a part of India is good for them."

Indeed, analysts say many Muslims see the inclusion of Kashmir in India as a symbol of India's commitment to the rule of secular law when the subcontinent was partitioned into India and the Muslim homeland of Pakistan 40 years ago.

In recent months, the long-standing trouble in Kashmir has taken on a new militant religious

bent, observers say.

Muslim groups advocating a Jihad, or holy war, for Kashmiri independence have gained ground. The movement has been fuelled by Muslim uprisings in Soviet Azerbaijan and Palestine, analysts say.

Responsibility for two bomb blasts at two New Delhi police stations was recently claimed by a group called Mujahadeen (holy warriors) Kashmir.

Pakistan, which controls a small section of the Kashmir valley, backs the militants' cause and claims the state should hold a plebiscite. India accuses its rival of directly aiding the separatists and has renewed stern warnings.

Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh has told the Parliament that India can match Pakistan in nuclear weapons and that Indians should be ready "psychologically" for war.

"There have been explosions in Kashmir before," says a Western diplomat in New Delhi. "What's different now is the wave of Islamic

awareness and self-determination. This has cast Kashmir in a new light."

Ironically, the Islamic appeal has had limited impact on Muslims elsewhere in the country.

Comprising 11 per cent of India's 800 million people, Muslims shunned Pakistan as a Muslim homeland only to feel separated from India's Hindu mainstream.

The partition of British India divided the Muslim community here. The educated urban elite, which had prompted the creation of Pakistan, largely emigrated across the border. Left behind were the working class, the poor, and a small middle class wracked by divisions in their families.

Attitudes began to shift in 1971 when East Pakistan seceded, with India help, to form Bangladesh. With the split, Indian Muslims no longer saw Pakistan as the protector of Muslims.

In the last two decades, the Muslim middle class began asserting its own political agenda:

recognition for their Urdu language, more jobs, autonomy for Muslim-run universities, and protection of Muslim personal law as sharia.

In 1986, a court award of alimony to a divorced Muslim woman was widely seen as undermining sharia, under which a husband cannot be required to pay maintenance. After Muslim outcry, the government superseded the legal judgment with legislation.

"My father's generation was a bit apologetic about being a Muslim because of partition. There was a guilt feeling which my generation hasn't known," says Tariq Ansari, an executive whose Bombay family owns a chain of English and Urdu newspapers. "Now there's a renewed sense of identity and pride," he continued.

However, the reasserted Muslim identity has stirred resentment among Hindus and triggered an unparalleled level of religious violence in recent years.

Last fall, hundreds of people died in Hindu-Muslim rioting over a disputed north Indian

shrine. The powerful right-wing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has charged that Muslims are being appeased, raising worries of a new Hindu backlash.

"Muslims are quite worried about the BJP and its growing influence on this government," says S. Tahir Mahmood, a law professor and Islamic specialist at Delhi University.

Syed Shahabuddin, an outspoken Muslim hardliner, says that with its mass arrests and firings on Kashmiri protestors, the government "is digging the grave of the secular order in this country. They should allow the Kashmiris total freedom to bring out everything in them. After a while it will die down."

Deep social and political discontent is feeding political alienation among Muslim youth. More than 60 per cent of Muslims live below the poverty line. The community lags in education, employment, and is underrepresented in government jobs.

In recent days, Mushir-ul-Haq, a prominent

Islamic scholar who was on leave in Kashmir University, was abducted and murdered, along with two others, by Muslim separatists in Kashmir.

"It is the month of Ramadan and we were praying that he would be released," said Asad Ali, a close colleague.

"These Kashmiri youth could have gotten a lot of sympathy among Muslims if they had sought more jobs, industry, recruitment to government services, education, and fair elections," he continued. "But instead they have taken up this war of secession. People don't think it's a just cause."

A new Muslim militancy is fuelled by the influence of religious leaders or maulvis and a growing network of religious schools associated with mosques. Attendance at mosques, which have become centres of political activity, has picked up in recent years.

When Muslim youth aren't turning to religion, they're turning to crime, observers say. Muslims play a major role in the Bombay underworld.

Sikh militants kill 7 Harijans

Woman injured in attack

AMRITSAR, India, May 15. (Reuters) Sikh militants dressed in security force uniforms dragged seven men from India's outcaste Harijan community from their homes, lined them up in a Punjab village and killed them, police said today.

They said the seven were shot late on Monday in Daruwal village, 45 km (30 miles) north of the Sikh holy city of Amritsar. A woman was injured when she tried to prevent the militants from dragging her husband away.

Police said the militants were wearing uniforms of the paramilitary border security force, which guards the Punjab border with Pakistan.

Identity crisis

Muslims in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, May 15. (Kuna): One million-strong Muslim community in Sri Lanka, which had overcome many obstacles in the past because of its resilience, is faced with a serious identity crisis today.

The community, which never bothered about long-term strategies, has finally learnt the bitter truth that unless a well-formulated strategy is adopted, the very survival of the Muslims, amidst turbulent political twists and turns, is at stake.

Although more than one-third of the Muslims live in the northern and the eastern provinces of the island, a handful of affluent Colombo Muslim leaders gave political leadership to the entire community, which comprises seven per cent of the total population.

As they were representatives of the commercial and business interests, the Muslim leaders always thought that the best policy to safeguard the interests of the community and their own interests, was to join one of the two national political parties, the United National Party (UNP) or the Sri Lankan Freedom Party (SLFP).

This had enabled Muslim leaders to get elected to Parliament in predominantly Sinhalese areas. Top Muslim leaders, who held important cabinet portfolios, represented constituencies with less than five per cent Muslims. Obviously, this policy had paid dividends, sometimes, even at the expense of the other minority, the Tamils.

This had resulted in resentment against Muslims among Tamils. Although the Muslims in the north and the east spoke the Tamil language, they were never considered as a part of the Tamil race, with which, in any case, they did not wish to be identified.

The differences between the Tamils and the Muslims rose to an unprecedented level when the majority race, the Sinhalese, introduced in 1956 a bill in Parliament to make Sinhala the official language. The Muslim leaders did not oppose the bill, which the Tamils considered as a betrayal. Since then, the main Sinhalese and Tamil political

parties started to rival one another as chauvinistic communal parties.

Although the main Tamil Party at that time, the Federal Party always claimed to represent the Tamil-speaking people, including the Muslims, it never gave the Muslims due representation in the party hierarchy. Tamil leaders always treated the Muslims as a business community and thought the Muslims wanted was the facility to carry on with their trading profession.

The contempt shown towards Muslims by the highly-educated, arrogant Tamil leadership had convinced the Muslims that their leaders' decision, to ally with the two main national parties, was the right strategy for a community sandwiched between the two major communities.

With the implementation of the official language policy, the medium of instruction in schools from the sixties has been either Sinhala or Tamil and the Muslim children, who live in areas dominated by either community, adopted the dominant language of the region.

"As a consequence of the language policy, today there is a new generation of Muslim youth, nearly two-third of them, who speak in a language which the other one-third does not understand and vice versa," Dr Ameer Ali, an eminent Muslim scholar, said explaining the dilemma of the community.

The other main development, which has affected the Muslim community, is the gradual emergence of the armed Tamil rebel movements in the north and the east, which finally pushed out the moderate Tamil leadership.

In this changed scenario, the Colombo-based leadership became irrelevant to the Muslims in the north and the east. The young Muslim leaders, who thought the policy of alliance with the main Sinhalese parties would not serve the community, decided to form a new political party. Thus, the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress (SLMC), led by a young firebrand of a lawyer from the east M.H.M. Ashroff was established.

The attack was the third of its kind in the area in the past two weeks and was carried out by Satnam Singh Satta, who calls himself chief general of the Khalistan Liberation Force, one of several groups fighting for an independent Sikh state, police said.

Police said Satta left a note at the scene saying: "As long as fake encounters continue and police continue to kill Sikh youths, we will continue to kill in retaliation."

Sikh militants say police often kill suspected extremists to avoid bringing them to trial and then say the extremists died in gun-fights. The government denies the allegations.

The killings appeared to be an attempt to trigger clashes between Punjab's majority Sikhs and Harijans, formerly called untouchables, who form nearly 10 per cent of the prosperous agricultural state's 17 million population, police said.

Some Harijans have converted to Sikhism in Punjab, others remain Hindu.

The killing were the latest by Sikh militants fighting for an independent homeland they call Khalistan (land of the pure). Police have reported the deaths of more than 1,000 people in the violence in Punjab this year.

Last year, the official toll was 1,800.

Cyclone

Medicos rushed

HYDERABAD, India, May 15. (Reuters) Medical teams spread through the south Indian state of Andhra Pradesh today to try to prevent epidemics among survivors of a cyclone that killed 538 people.

State officials said nearly 1,100 medical staff were inoculating and vaccinating both people and livestock against epidemics.

But state relief commissioner Arjun Rao told reporters there were no indications of an epidemic so far.

Rescue operations intensified. More planes were brought in to drop food, and boats ferried drinking water to nearly 1.5 million people displaced by the cyclone that struck India's southeast coast last Wednesday.

The operations were most intense in the districts of Guntur and Krishna, which bore the brunt of the cyclone.

Two hundred-fifty people died in Guntur and 103 in Krishna, where the floods and winds of up to 250 kph (155 miles per hour) destroyed more than 250,000 homes, officials said.



Maneka Gandhi

Maneka bound to green agenda

Awash with problems

NEW DELHI, India, May 15: India's new minister for green issues is 35-year-old Maneka Gandhi, the estranged sister-in-law of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi. She has been given the environment and forest portfolio and is already awash in problems.

Her detractors are politicians and business interests lobbying for big power projects. Her champions are environmentalists without influence, and the poor people displaced by the large projects.

She has crossed swords with ministers in Uttar Pradesh (UP) over a move to amend a state act which protects trees in rural and hill areas. The forests minister wishes to broaden the list of tree types which can be cleared on private land without government permission.

Maneka fears that already denuded forests and plantations will be destroyed; UP argues that poor people must be allowed to cut down trees they have grown for their own needs otherwise they will stop planting trees.

The UP state government points out that there are, for example, several hundred mango orchards with trees too old to bear fruit but which cannot be cut down without permission or replaced with fresh plantations.

Tempests have also flared over her opposition to the 254-metre (830 feet) high Tehri dam to be built in a seismic area.

Blasting "so-called environmentalists" campaigning against

large power and irrigation projects, UP's energy minister says they ignore the fact that poverty is also a threat to the environment. Punjab and Haryana would not have had a green revolution, he says, without the Bhakra Dam (which overlooks the argument that environmentalists believe green revolution are ecologically dubious anyway and do little to benefit the poor).

"Given suitable design and engineering, there is no reason why such dams cannot be safe and even withstand seismic shocks," he says.

Maneka's opponents have also accused her of trying to sabotage government policy by the back door in her opposition to the Sardar Sarovar big dam project in Gujarat. Congressmen say she lobbied a West German development minister to torpedo the project at the next meeting of the governors of the World Bank.

Facing attacks from her own party as well as the opposition Congress Party, Maneka seems fearless for her future and is pressing on with plans ranging from protection of the tropical rain-forest on the Andaman Islands to the introduction of lead-free petrol. She intends to strengthen both the Environment Protection Act and the Wildlife Act to give the ministry more clout.

She has appointed a high court judge to study a proposal to set up environment courts — which would be the first in the world.

Nuke arms in S. Asia

India, Pakistan yet to agree

NEW DELHI, May 15. (Kuna): Since 1985, the concept of nuclear non-proliferation in South Asia has figured in almost every discussion between the leaders of India and Pakistan. As the two countries differ fundamentally on certain vital issues involved, these discussions have so far produced no positive results. But the issue is still very much on the agenda of dialogue and could come up again between the leaders of the two countries in more propitious circumstances than at present.

As an extra-regional power with good relations with both India and Pakistan, the United States has expressed its interest in the matter. In fact, on this issue the US and the Soviet policies are congruent.

Pakistan had presented to India a series of proposals designed to limit or prevent the spread of nuclear weapons in South Asia. These included signing of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) by both countries, and establishment of a South Asia nuclear weapons-free zone.

India has a principled objection to the NPT and to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) of fullscope safeguards. More fundamentally, India's proposals do not take into account India's concern about China's nuclear programme. In the present circumstances, any purely bilateral arrangement between India and Pakistan, or any regional arrangement confined to the sub-continent, is bound to fail.

However, Indo-Pakistani arrangements that involve something less than imposing fullscope safeguards on India and Pakistan are achievable. In 1985, Rajiv Gandhi agreed in principle to a Pakistani proposal that each side refrain from attacking the other's nuclear facilities. But both India and Pakistan have procrastinated in reaching a formal agreement on the no-attack accord.

Pakistanis felt their proposals were not taken seriously in New Delhi. Indians, on the other hand, question Islamabad's sincerity, arguing that Pakistan has put forward proposals that it knows India will reject and, in any event, Pakistan could not be trusted actually to implement any agreement reached.

While India has not addressed nuclear issues on the bilateral level with Pakistan, it has been a leading advocate for total nuclear disarmament on the global level. In recent years, New Delhi has worked to focus international attention on nuclear issues through the five continent peace initiative — comprising the leaders of six nations, namely, India, Mexico, Greece, Argentina, Tanzania and Sweden — entailing, among other things, periodic heads-of-government summits and experts' meetings. Although not considered particularly significant by the Western arms control community, the initiative has been viewed as important by many Third World countries.

The five continent initiative has been criticised for talking about disarmament, but failing to come up with workable proposals. It is significant that India is now willing to approach the problem of nuclear proliferation simultaneously with superpower arms reduction, rather than subsequent to such agreement. Further, by proposing a global nuclear weapons freeze for all but the superpowers, India is endorsing a prospective global nuclear agreement that is unequal in that it allows some states to retain nuclear weapons while others are barred from having them.

During Rajiv Gandhi's last visit to the United States as prime minister, a new proposal raised was for India and Pakistan each to place one additional nuclear facility under safeguards. The proposal, if implemented, would place limits on the nuclear capabilities of both countries.

Under this proposal, India and Pakistan would each apply non-proliferation safeguards to one of its nuclear facilities not currently under international safeguards. Such safeguards could be in the form of IAEA safeguards or safeguards monitored by inspection teams from the other country.

Police charge women sit-in

DHAKA, May 15. (Reuters) Five women were injured today when riot police charged into a group of 50 women protesting against eviction from a government hostel, witnesses said.

They said policemen with truncheons charged the homeless women as they began a sit-in in the driving rain outside Dhaka's national press club.

Police pulled down the protesters' makeshift camp and grabbed the cotton mattresses they were sitting on, sending the women running.

Authorities on May 4 evicted 52 women, most of whom have jobs with local companies, saying they had overstayed the three-year leaves permitted at government hostels.

The women, who said they had nowhere else to live, described the act as "barbaric and heartless."

Curfew imposed

2 killed in Pakistan

KARACHI, May 15. (Reuters) A curfew enforced by troops and police was imposed on the southern Pakistani city of Hyderabad today after two people were killed and 18 wounded in shoot-

ings. Security forces searched houses for weapons after a university professor and a medical student were shot by unidentified gunmen yesterday, police said.

Hyderabad, the second biggest city in Sind province, has been frequently hit by the sort of ethnic and political violence that also erupts in Pakistan's biggest city, Karachi.

Three districts of Karachi remained under curfew today after four people were shot dead yesterday. Curfews are usually relaxed for periods during the day to allow residents to get supplies.

Pakistan's major stock exchange in the city also stayed closed on the last day of a three-day protest at the murder of a leading exchange member in a robbery at the weekend.

Sixteen people were killed in three days of clashes last week between Mohajir immigrants from India and a combination of Pushtuns and Punjabis from northern Pakistan.

Lanka lobby for Arab embassies

COLOMBO, May 15. (Kuna): The newly formed Sri Lanka Pan-Arab Friendship Association (SLPAFA) is to lobby all Arab nations to open their embassies in Colombo.

A SLPAFA source said yesterday, the association, inaugurated early May this year, has passed a resolution to the effect and will begin deliberations shortly.

11,000 Dhaka pupils expelled for cheating

DHAKA, May 15. (Reuters) Nearly 11,000 students have been expelled for cheating and violence during three days of college entry examinations last week, education officials said today.

More than 200 students were arrested and 300 injured in clashes with police and about 100 teachers suspended for helping the cheaters, they said.

Nearly 450,000 students were taking the month-long secondary school certificate tests

that began last Thursday in more than 500 centres.

There was violence in about 70 examination centres where students demonstrated for the "right to cheat," attacked teachers and battled police with home-made bombs, stones and sticks.

At many centres, students complaining of tight monitoring smashed furniture and tore up answer scripts.

Yesterday, nearly 2,000 students and 17

teachers were expelled during the science test. Police used tear-gas and blank shots to disperse students' relatives and friends trying to storm examination centres.

Authorities also cancelled a science test in eastern Comilla town because the questions were leaked beforehand.

Authorities seized all photocopying machines in Comilla to prevent copying of the leaked papers. President Hossain Mohammad Ershad last night ordered an inquiry.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

East Europe looks to 1990s as decade of the bourse

FRANKFURT, May 15. (Reuters) The 1990s look set to become the decade of the stock exchange in East

Europe. Reforms sweeping the region have made "bourse" a household word from Moscow to East

Berlin. But East bloc officials said at a conference here this week that a great

deal of work still needs to be done before their capital markets reach Western standards.

More than 70 East European finance officials, central bankers and equities specialists have attended the

conference this week to exchange ideas on creating bourses in their home countries.

"We are moving toward a market economy, but we are still facing many problems along the way," Ilya Petr-

ovitsch of the Soviet Finance Ministry told the conference today.

UAE continues to provide crude to Japan

Stable oil supply

TOKYO, May 15. (Reuters) The President of the United Arab Emirates today promised to continue providing Japan with stable supplies of oil and natural gas, a Foreign Ministry official said.

UAE President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan told Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu his country would give Japan the top priority over other countries to do so, the official said.

The president, making his first official visit to Japan, expressed hope that Tokyo would continue making efforts for ending the conflict between Iran and Iraq and bringing peace to the Middle East, he said.

Kaifu said Japan would continue giving the UAE the technical assistance and expertise it needed, he said.

The UAE is the largest supplier of oil to Japan.

Meanwhile, oil industry sources said Abu Dhabi, the biggest oil producer in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), will supply 100,000 tonnes per month, 25,000 barrels per day (bpd), of crude to North Yemen in the July-December period.

They said the crude will be processed in Aden's refinery in South Yemen to make up for dwindling Soviet crude supplies.

Socialist South Yemen and its neighbour in the North are expected to announce the merger of their two countries at the end of this month.

The agreement was signed in Abu Dhabi on Monday between senior officials of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Co (Adnoc) and a visiting North Yemen oil delegation, the sources said.

"The agreement should be seen in the perspective of Arab brotherhood," one oil industry executive said. He said the crude oil would most probably be used for domestic refined products consumption needs of the United Yemen.

Both North and South Yemen are oil producers.

The Soviet Union for several years has supplied around 50,000 bpd of crude to South Yemen to be processed at the Aden refinery as there is no pipeline linking South Yemen's

Shabwa oil field to the refinery. Oil is trucked to Aden from Shabwa at a rate of 15,000 bpd.

Sources said although the Soviet-South Yemen crude supply agreement runs until the end of this year, Moscow has reduced supplies. The new level of Soviet oil imports was unavailable.

Oil industry sources said the oil supplied by Abu Dhabi will most probably be sold on deferred payment basis and the agreement might be extended when it expires in December.

Sources said the agreement would probably not put extra strain on the UAE's pledge to cut 200,000 bpd of its crude output in the May-July and the agreement to supply crude to North Yemen does not start before July anyway, one oil industry source said.

The UAE rejects its 1.095 million bpd Opec output quota on the grounds that it is too small for its needs. It keeps its output around two million bpd, 1.6 million of which is produced by Abu Dhabi.



Hectic trading

A female dealer puts her finger on her chin as she holds a telephone to watch rapid changes in currency rates on a quotation board during hectic trading at a Tokyo money brokerage company yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Dollar steady

LONDON, May 15. (Reuters) The dollar fought a losing battle against a resurgent Japanese yen in European today, but held steady against other major currencies despite a batch of weak US economic data from Washington.

Gold closed in London \$175 down at \$367.75 an ounce, having slipped as low as \$366.00 before attracting good support.

The US currency closed in London at 150.76 yen compared with Monday's finish of 152.64. Dealers said they expected a key support level around 150.50 to be breached soon.

"In general terms the market thinks the yen has been undervalued," Nikko Bank chief forward trader Carlo Galazzi said. "The feeling is that the dollar should be lower and I think the market will try and get it through 150.50 yen."

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Iran bans investment firms

Disruptive speculation

TEHRAN, May 15. (Reuters) Iran today abolished private investment companies alleged to have undermined the economy by disruptive speculation and misusing funds of small savers.

The so-called "Mozarebeh firms" offered up to 48 per cent a year on deposits compared with only seven per cent from banks, irresistible to thousands of small investors hit by inflation running at 28.5 per cent annually.

"Mozarebeh firms are illegal and no institutions except banks are authorised to engage in Mozarebeh," Tehran General Prosecutor Ali Yunesi said in a statement.

Yunesi said the profits paid by Mozarebeh firms "were not the result of business activities but came from the capital paid by new investors."

The firms are supposed to pay depositors monthly shares of profits from the commercial activities they have invested in using their clients' money.

Officials in such firms which waste people's deposits would be prosecuted as swindlers and people who continue to invest would not get legal protection, Yunesi said in the statement broadcast.

Aqazadeh postpones visit to Kuwait

KUWAIT, May 16. (Reuters) Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh has indefinitely postponed a visit to Kuwait which was due to start today, an Iranian embassy spokesman in Kuwait said.

"He postponed it (the visit) to another time due to unexpected business," the spokesman told Reuters without giving details.

Gulf oil officials have said that Aqazadeh was due to discuss oil market conditions with his Kuwaiti counterpart, Sheikh Ali Khalifa, following Opec's recent pact to cut output and raise prices.

Tehran said this week it wanted oil prices to be "much higher" than their present levels, but Sheikh Ali is a strong advocate of a freeze of Opec's reference price of \$18 a barrel for at least another three years.

A Kuwaiti official told Reuters that Aqazadeh and Sheikh Ali were looking for a new date for the rare visit that was agreed earlier this month.

The official said the postponement was at the request of Aqazadeh who was holding talks with visiting Oil Minister of Oman, Omer Al Shanfari.

"The visit is still on and a new date will be fixed," he said.

A Gulf oil official said on Monday that the expected Sheikh Ali and Aqazadeh to discuss Opec problems ahead of the group's ordinary meeting in Geneva next July.

Oil ministers from the 13-member Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries agreed in Geneva on May 3 to cut oil output by 1.445 million barrels per day (bpd) for three months to prop up prices that plunged 25 per cent this year because of a glut.

Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said on Sunday Opec should work for a "much higher" price than the present levels. Aqazadeh said earlier this month he would propose such an increase at the end of this year.

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Jebel Ali's success highlighted

THE importance of the Jebel Ali Free Zone as an industrial base and distribution centre was explained today by a French delegation headed by General Jacques Mitterrand, chairman and chief executive officer of the Office General de l'Air, at a recent meeting with representatives from French companies located at the free zone.

Accompanying General Mitterrand on his tour of Jebel Ali was the French ambassador to the UAE, the French consul-general and commercial attaché, based in Dubai, as well as the local representative of the Office General de l'Air.

Ducros Gulf Industries (DGI) was one of the first French companies to take advantage of the free zone. Since 1986 it has imported and distributed a range of spices, condiments, bakery and pastry products manufactured by Ducros France. Additionally it imports spices and dried fruits in bulk and repackages them at the free zone for regional sales to retail and catering companies.

As DGI's general manager, Alain Terraz, explained to General Mitterrand: "We originally envisaged that imports would be the most important function for us, but we soon found that Dubai's location enabled us to export spices and dried fruits to Europe and Africa." Exports to the Middle East and European countries have also been important for the French Gulf Air-Conditioning and Refrigeration Manufacturing Company (FGC).

Despite being a French company manufacturing using French licenses, FGC exports part of its products to France. Explains the general manager, Iskander Roumich: "Some of the air-conditioner components we import from France and others we manufacture at Jebel Ali. Air-conditioners are the assembled at Jebel Ali. The quality of our products remains competitive, but our production costs are lower than if we manufactured in France."

At the conclusion of the meeting, a tour of Jebel Ali port was arranged for General Mitterrand and the French delegation.

Fertiliser company's earnings dip

QATAR, May 15, (Opecna): The Qatar Fertiliser Company (Qafco) has said that its earnings dropped to about \$37 million in 1989 compared with 49.56 million in 1988.

Fuad Saleh Al-Mahmoud, Qafco's deputy board chairman, said the decline was due to low fertilizer prices world-wide, with those of urea and ammonia reaching the lowest ever in recent years.

He said the company produced 780,000 tons of urea and 714,000 tons of ammonia last week. Studies had been finalised to launch Qafco-3 which would produce 2,000 tons of urea and 1,000 tons of ammonia daily, he added.

With the completion of the two plants, Qatar would become one of the biggest fertilizer producers in the world.

Al Mahmud said that about \$2.74 million from the profits would be distributed to the company's shareholders soon.

Significant advantage

ROLLS-ROYCE has announced that United Parcel Services (UPS) has become the launch customer for a re-engineering programme which sets new standards of aircraft noise for the Boeing 727.

The programme is to re-engine UPS's entire fleet of 727-100s with Rolls-Royce Tay 650 engines. Including options, the programme covers as many as 80 aircraft. This represents up to 280 engines, the value of which could exceed \$600 million to Rolls-Royce.

Significant advantages on the rejuvenated aircraft include up to 12 per cent improvement on fuel economy, lower pollution levels, greater payload, extended range and reduced maintenance costs.

Exchange Rates

Indian rupee	16.890
Sri Lankan rupee	7.330
Pakistani rupee	13.390
Bangladesh taka	8.450
US dollar	29.105
Pound sterling	49.752
UAE dirham	1.7952
Deutsche mark	1.7695
Japanese yen	0.01933

Taiwan to boost investment in Saudi Arabia

TAIPEI, May 15, (Reuters): Taiwan will boost its investment in Saudi Arabia in an attempt to strengthen its bilateral trade and diplomatic ties with Riyadh, the Industrial Development and Investment Centre said today.

Centre director John Ni said Taiwan hoped the investment would reduce the impact of Saudi Arabia's decision to swap trade offices with China last year.

Saudi Arabia is the only country in the Middle East which recognises Taiwan's nationalist government.

He said Taiwan would encourage local public and private corporations to invest in Saudi Arabia, especially in those areas that could use Riyadh's cheaper labour and abundant supply of raw materials.

"Investment by Taiwan businessmen

in the kingdom would reap mutual benefits for both Taiwan and Saudi Arabia," he said in an interview.

Ni said Saudi Arabia is an ideal place for investment for Taiwan manufacturers of petrochemicals and chemicals, who are facing rising wages, a labour shortage and skyrocketing land prices at home.

The state-owned Taiwan fertiliser

company has a joint venture urea plant with the Saudi Basic Industries Corporation in Jubail, more than 100 km (65 miles) north of Dhahran, he said.

The \$350 million plant, capable of producing between 600,000 and 630,000 tonnes of urea a year, has been operating successfully since 1984.

A company official said Taiwan fertiliser was making a feasibility study for

the establishment of two to three joint venture chemical plants in the kingdom.

Another state-owned firm, the China Steel Corporation, also plans to set up a joint venture aluminium plant in Saudi Arabia. A company official said a proposal for the venture, capable of producing 210,000 tonnes of aluminium a year, is now before the cabinet for

final approval. He declined to give investment figures.

Taiwan's daily oil imports from Saudi Arabia account for about 150,000 barrels or 35 per cent of its total needs.

It two-way trade with Saudi Arabia rose to \$1.94 billion in 1989 from 1.87 billion in 1988, according to official figures.

Contribution to GNP drops

Private sector key pillar of economy

CAIRO, May 15, (Kuna): A Kuwaiti professor today doubted the possibility that the private sector in her country can solely assume the burden of economic development there if the public sector merges with it.

Dr. Mudbi Al-Himoud, a Kuwait University economics professor, urged for selecting "the appropriate formulas and shapes of privatisation" to guarantee a slim margin of success for the private sector in its future mission.

This came in a research presented by Dr. Mudbi to a symposium on the private and public sectors in the Arab world, which opened here yesterday in the attendance of top Arab economists.

She noted that privatisation in

the world took three forms, namely a full partial switch to the private sector, abolishing monopoly relied on by the public sector and entrusting the private sector with managing some of the public sector's activities through tenders.

Dr. Mudbi said that the second and third forms were used in Kuwait.

She affirmed that the Kuwaiti private sector was a key pillar of the country's economy, but resorted to commercial activities of quick profit following the oil boom.

Dr. Mudbi said that most of the units of the private sector in Kuwait are owned and run by individuals, which means that privatisation will be to

individualist projects and not to privately-owned ones.

On manpower in the Kuwaiti private sectors, she noted that the private sector has started relying as of recently on cheap labour from non-Arab countries, bringing foreign labour in this sector to 94.7 per cent, of which 53.5 per cent are from non-Arab countries.

On the private sector's contribution to the gross national product (GNP), Dr. Mudbi said that this contribution dropped from 34.5 per cent in 1982 to 23.7 per cent in 1985.

She said that such a drastic drop in the sector's contribution shows its dependency on general spending.

The Kuwaiti professor indicated that her country renders a great deal of support to many of the trade, agricultural and industrial activities practiced by the private sectors.

She noted that forms of support include low or non-profit loans, allocation of industrial lots at low cost, customs exempt on imported machinery and equipment and low-cost utilities.

In conclusion, she said: "Privatisation is not the sole solution. A solution is to adopt an ambitious programme to reconstruct public projects and units of the government apparatus to assist them toward performing their duties in a more adequate manner."

GIB to arrange export credit

MANAMA, Bahrain, May 15, (AP): Gulf International Bank, a Bahrain-based offshore bank, today said it has won a mandate to arrange a \$75 million export finance facility for the Turkish bank Yapi Ve Kredi Bankasi.

GIB won the mandate in the face of strong competition from a number of other international banks, said a press statement from its headquarters.

The three-year revolving credit carries interest payments of 62.5 basis points above the London Interbank Offered Rate or Libor, GIB said.

Plans to set up oil fund

Norway to extend boom times

OSLO, May 15, (Reuters): Norway, worried that huge North Sea energy wealth has lulled it into laziness, hopes to extend the nation's boom times — by trying to forget its oil even exists.

Norway's parliament on May 8 backed plans to set up an "oil fund," siphoning all oil and gas revenues out of the budget to save the cash for when wells dry up early next century.

But parliament will have easy access to the money and many Norwegian officials worry whether politicians will resist the temptation to use the fund for anything but raising standards of living.

Looking out the window of his offices in central Oslo, the minister added: "When I look around, there is the Ministry of Social Affairs, and other ministries around here, they are very clever at spending money."

The parliament's main chamber, the *Stortinget*, overwhelmingly approved government proposals for the fund on May 8 and politicians said the secondary chamber, the *Lagtinget*, would follow suit. No date has been set for the Lagting vote.

The planned fund, under which the Central Bank would invest oil money abroad, has fuelled debate over whether Norway is wasting its wealth. Since striking oil in 1968, Norway's 4.2 million people have become among the world's richest per capita.

"I think historians will say in the next century that oil was not a piece of luck for Norway but the opposite because we stopped thinking — we just relied on the oil to pay everything for us," said Erik Solheim, head of the Socialist Left Party which has 17 of 165 seats in parliament. Many Norwegians disagree.

"The challenges of the petroleum industry have brought forward a lot of ingenuity, creativity and have meant that (Norway's) maritime traditions — have been used for a new industry," said Arbjorn Larsen, managing director of Saga Petroleum A/S, Norway's biggest private oil firm.

Before oil, Norway was both a major shipping nation and a producer of hydro-electricity. Cheap hydro power helped set up a metals industry to supplement agriculture and fishing.

Norway produces around 1.7 million barrels of oil per day, the most in Western Europe after Britain, and has reserves to keep pumping at present levels for around two decades.

A year's output would work out at about 140 barrels per Norwegian — or some \$2,400 each at current oil prices.

Yet even when the oil runs out, Norwegians will not go from riches to rags as the North Sea also has vast reserves of gas. Norway could continue its gas output of around 30 billion cubic metres a year for a century.

Oil has let Norway avoid — or at least postpone — much of the painful economic restructuring of many Western nations in the 1980s.

"Our oil has enabled politicians to avoid doing what ought to be done," said Carl Hagrud, leader of the radical right Progress Party, with 12 seats in parliament.

Industrial production down sharply

WASHINGTON, May 15, (UPI): US industrial production plunged 0.4 per cent in April, due primarily to a sharp decline in automobile production, after registering a healthy gain in March, the Federal Reserve said today.

The report also said that American industry operated at 83 per cent of capacity last month, a decrease of 0.5 per cent from March.

A sharp drop in the production of motor vehicles and parts, affecting both consumer goods and business equipment accounted for the April decline in industrial production, the Federal Reserve said.

In March, industrial production increased by a revised 0.5 per cent and factory operating capacity recorded a revised increase of 0.3 percentage point, the report also said.

Motor vehicle production was off by 14 per cent for the month. But excluding automobiles and parts, total industrial production remained unchanged in April, the Federal Reserve said.

The 0.4 decline was the first since a January drop of 1 per cent in the wake of December's big freeze,

which crippled all types of business activity across the United States.

"By industry, manufacturing production was down 0.6 per cent in April, production of durable goods — items made to last three or more years — was off 1 per cent, and non-durable goods fell 0.1 per cent."

"Apart from autos and trucks, production of durable consumer goods declined 0.7 per cent owing mainly to a drop in output of appliances," the report said. "The output of non-durable consumer goods remained sluggish in April."

By product groups, production of consumer goods fell 1 per cent last month, while production of business equipment and production of construction supplies were both down 0.9 per cent, the Federal Reserve said.

But mining production was up 0.9 per cent in April and the output of public utilities advanced 0.6 per cent, as mines operated at 88.3 per cent of capacity and utilities at 87.1 per cent of capacity — both increases.

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Commercial Bank of Kuwait
The Bank For Today

Victims of battle with EEC

US invokes Third World farmers

STRASBOURG, France, May 15, (Reuters): The developing world is the real victim of a battle between the United States and European Economic Community over farm trade subsidies, US Agriculture Secretary Clayton Yeutter said today.

"Why should the farmers of the Third World have to compete against the treasuries of the developed world," Yeutter told a news conference after meeting with members of the European parliament in Strasbourg.

"I just do not see a legitimate basis for the continuation of export subsidies."

Washington and the EEC have argued for years over each others' subsidies on exports of produce such as cereals and butter. The United States says it abhors subsidies but will only cancel them if its trading competitors do likewise.

The EEC says it is prepared to curb subsidies but rejects the American call for their total elimination. The two sides have been manoeuvring for advan-

tage as the Uruguay round of world trade negotiations under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) moves toward a scheduled close in Brussels this December.

Yeutter said the future of export subsidies will be the toughest issue to settle in the farm trade bargaining sponsored by the world trade organisation.

"I see export subsidies as the most difficult because I don't see a good way to bridge the gap with the EEC," he said.

Trade experts fear that if Washington does not get its way on agriculture, it will walk away from the whole negotiation round which includes a host of other trade sectors including services like banking and textiles.

US and EEC officials are meeting every two weeks until December to try to bridge the gap between their positions on agriculture. Yeutter said progress has been made in three of the four main areas of dispute in the agriculture.

Copper discovered in northern Oman

MUSCAT, Oman, May 15, (AP): Copper discoveries in northern Oman could safeguard the short-term future of the sultanate's copper refining industry, a Japanese-aided research study spokesman said here today.

Pre-feasibility surveys by state minerals officials in collaboration with the Japan International Co-operation Agency indicated substantial copper deposits in the Yanqul region, 300 kilometres (188 miles) west of the capital, said the spokesman, Susumu Tanaka.

"Three Japanese metallurgists from the Jica have confirmed hopes that the finds could prolong the active life of the state copper refinery," he said.

The study revealed the presence of an estimated 8 million tonnes of copper reserves in the Hayl A' Safli and Rakah areas of Yanqul.

If the government developed the fields, the recoverable reserves would be sufficient to supply the \$150 million Oman Mining Co. complex at Sohar with its ore requirements for seven years, according to state mining department director Salim Abdullah.

Concentrated ore is smelted to produce copper and this is electrolytically refined to produce copper cathodes for export. Latest statistics available indicate OMC export sales of around 16,000 tonnes a year.

Gorbachev predicts unemployment

MOSCOW, May 15, (Reuters): Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev admitted yesterday unemployment would result from economic reform and one of his key advisers warned of social upheaval.

"There will be structural unemployment and in fact there is now," Gorbachev told a woman worker at a confectionery factory who asked him about the effect of the reforms on jobs.

"Factories are closing and have to be prepared for the transition to different production forms. This is temporary unemployment," he said.

"In addition, it is now clear that what takes two or three people to do here is done by one person in the West."

Gorbachev's admission followed an announcement on Soviet radio that the government's plan for a "regulated market economy" would be introduced in parliament on

May 21 and 22 — a week later than Gorbachev had planned.

The scheme was to have been in effect by July but disagreement among top economic experts and popular discontent over expected stiff price rises have delayed its implementation.

The Soviet leader told workers changes to improve the economy were made possible by cuts in defence spending, saying up to 20 per cent of the national economy had previously been devoted to the military sector.

Gorbachev had originally hoped to present the economic package to parliament soon after the creation last March of his policy-making Presidential Council.

His advisers had said concern over protecting low-paid groups like teachers had been at the centre of discussions.

A member of the Presidential Council, Gorbachev's cabinet of advisers, said the

switch to a market economy had been delayed while the council determined its effects on society, already facing political upheavals because of reform.

"Our society can stand a certain degree of tension, but no more than that," Yuri Osepyan said in an interview published on Friday in Nedelya, a weekly supplement to Izvestia newspaper. "That is why we should define very clearly which level of social losses we can allow in this or that variant of reform."

Postburo conservative Yegor Ligachev said on television on Monday no amount of reform-induced material abundance would make up for workers being unemployed. He stressed the importance of state as opposed to private property.

On May 1, workers marching on Red Square carried banners proclaiming they were prepared for economic reform but not if it meant inflation and unemployment.

EVENTS

Indian Video Roundup

Whodunit with a twisted theme

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

A THRILLER? An action film? A social drama? What is it? Pratik Mehta's *Police Public*, directed by Esmayel Shroff, is as bizarre as its title.

Perhaps, it wanted to talk about dowry-crimes-in-laws; perhaps, it wanted to show the "clean" image of a recent government. It could be they wanted to expose police inefficiency. Maybe, its makers didn't know what they were doing.

With a cast including Raj Kumar, Naseeruddin Shah, Poonam Dhillon, Raj Kiran, Prem Chopra, Rakesh Bedi, Kabir Bedi and a host of others, we naturally expected palatable fare. But in today's Hindi cinema, plausibility is in short supply.

It starts off promisingly enough and had the makings of a thriller. On a dark rainy night, a mysterious man leaves a villa and vanishes with his limousine. In the night club, a scantily clad woman dances on giant scorpions. The next morning, Karuna's body is found with a bullet wound. We, the viewers, wait with bated breath. Ah! a mystery may unfold. Alas! this is not to be. They don't know what to do with the

corpse, the characters, the script or the film.

The film revolves around Karuna's death. Was it suicide or murder? Sufficient material for a taut thriller to keep you guessing. No way.

Shroff's *Police Public* debate the question for hours before deciding it could be murder. And like dunces, they ignore the obvious, deft logic and stoop to trivia.

Let's see what the police are up to: boosting their bank balance and filling their empty bours in the company of beautiful belles. One stereotype character who has been finely chiselled and modelled is Maha Singh Gadowal (Naseeruddin Shah) whose wife is forever in her parent's home; so he coolly walks off with Sharma's (Prem Chopra) girl Friday. He's the bad cop: the one who sides the criminals.

The good cop belongs to CBI. The pompous Jagmohan Azad (Raj Kumar), unlike most intelligence officers, arrives amid fanfare, to investigate Karuna's death, giving the criminals enough time to play charades. The poet-detective is not Sherlock Holmes.

And the Public? They protest, carry placards and shout slogans. For crying out loud, they are silenced!

In recent months Shah has switched

loyalties and gone commercial. But even in a tacky set up like *Police Public*, he rises above the mundane to give a credible performance.

Raj Kumar's Azad is a total misfit; Kabir Bedi's brief cameo is cut short for Gadowal's entry. Characters who stand out in the circus are Prem Chopra's Sharma, Rakesh Bedi as Lalluram and A.K. Hangal as Karuna's father.

Songs and dances have been needlessly forced into the film. The less said the better about lyrics like "Chandni Chowk," a vulgar, debased song-dance number, which was rightfully chopped off midway.

If anyone wants a lesson in how not to make a thriller, *Police Public* is a must. And if you want to be a party in transparent intrigue, you can switch on the video, and learn a lesson or two in why not to bribe officials.

Kali Ganga

Its Dimple Kapadia's turn to play tough. Tough luck! Ganga's story is as old as the hills of Chambal — at least on screen. And our plight is similar to the hapless villagers who run for cover each time a horse gallops by. If good sense prevails, one should take a walk on the waterfront, or go fishing or climb the green

hill. Believe me, they'd be better pastimes than sitting through another sob tale of innocence shattered and trapped in the Chambal Valley. It's a pity that a talented actor like Suresh Oberoi has to act in a film like *Kali Ganga*, which should have never seen the light of day.

Naya Andaz

The charm of this video cassette based on a concept by choreographer Kamal lies in music — the sound of yesteryears. Classic songs like "Bholi surat dil ke khoti," "Chah koi mujhe jungle," "Ramaiya wasta waiya..." etc will remain evergreen melodies. Govinda, Mithun gyrate, break-dance or boogie. Amitabh joins the fray and Kamal has an Amrita dance. Yet, excerpts from the black and white films retain their character. And numbers from Raj Kapoor movies cannot be bettered. One can disregard Shatrughan Sinha's presentation, and Rekha's exaggerated presence. Amrita's candid interview Kamal has an Amrita dance. Yet, excerpts from the black and white films retain their character. And numbers from Raj Kapoor movies cannot be bettered. One can disregard Shatrughan Sinha's presentation, and Rekha's exaggerated presence. Amrita's candid interview

Kamal has an Amrita dance. Yet, excerpts from the black and white films retain their character. And numbers from Raj Kapoor movies cannot be bettered. One can disregard Shatrughan Sinha's presentation, and Rekha's exaggerated presence. Amrita's candid interview

The above films are by courtesy of Athari Video, Mala St., Farwaniya; and Canary Video, Fisheries Bld., Sharq.



Shatrughan Sinha



Dimple Kapadia



Suresh Oberoi

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

9.30 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
9.45 Cartoon serial
10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.30 Daily Arabic serial
11.15 Songs
11.30 Bedouin serial: Swainan
12.30 News in brief and closedown

Evening

4.00 Opening and Holy Quran
4.15 World Today via Satellite (repetition)
4.30 Cartoon serial
5.00 Puppet show
5.30 Public announcements
6.00 Daily Arabic serial
7.00 Songs
7.15 Folklore
7.50 Islamic arts
8.30 Good Evening
9.00 News in Arabic

KTV 2

9.45 Weekly local programme: Shabakat Al Telefizyon
10.15 Daily Arabic serial
11.00 Arabic feature film: Rawat Al Hub, Starring: Rushdi Abatha, Najla Fathi
1.00 News in brief
1.20 World Today via Satellite and closedown

Evening

6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
6.10 Mickey and Donald. A cartoon series for children
6.30 Hotshot. The female professor remains under the control of the gang.
7.00 Beyond 2000. Advanced surgery in the field of transplanting teeth... Computer used in developing rac-

ing yachts... Masks against smoke
Satellites for star wars... Advanced telephone for multi-functions.

8.00 News in English
8.30 The Science Edition.
9.00 Booker. "Someone Stole Lucille". Booker is charged to find a stolen violin with the help of Teshima manager's son who commits many errors.

10.00 Cine Club. Presented by Farouk Abdulaziz. "Bonnie and Clyde". Starring: Warren Beatty, Fay Dunaway, Gene Hackman. In the early thirties, a car thief and the daughter of his intended victim team up to become America's most feared and ruthless bank robbers.
12.00 News in brief
12.10 Magazine D'actualite

CINEMA

Al Andalus Arabic film
Al Salamiyah Arabic film
Al Hamsa Arabic film
Drive-In Arabic film
Al Firdous Arabic film
Waqi Ki Awaz Arabic film
Kasam Vardi Kee Arabic film
Al Jabra Arabic film
Fandango Arabic film
Granada Arabic film
Mad Mission V Arabic film
No Time To Die Arabic film
Street Justice Arabic film
Ahmadi Drive-In Arabic film

Embassy of Afghanistan

The Embassy of the Republic of Afghanistan in Kuwait presents its compliments to all diplomatic and consular missions and international organisations accredited to the State of Kuwait and has the honour to inform them that the embassy has been transferred to the following address:

Mishref — Block No. 6 —

Street No. 4
House No. 1
Cable add: (Afghanub)
P.O. Box: (33186 Rawdah)
& (22944 Safat)
Tel: 5396915 — 5396916

The embassy avails itself of this opportunity to renew to all diplomatic and consular missions and international organisations the assurance of its higher consideration.

PRAYERS

Fajr	3.25 am
Zuhr	11.44
Asr	3.20 pm
Maghreb	6.34
Isha	8.01

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Gallery Dahiyat
Abdullah Al Saleem
THE Sixth Arab Children's art show will be held at the Dahiyat Abdullah Al Saleem Gallery, near Fatima Mosque, from May 12 to 21. The paintings and drawings of children from several Arab and Gulf countries will be on show. It will be open from 9 am to 12 noon and 5 to 7 pm, except weekends.

SOCIAL

Arab and International Handicrafts Bazaar 1990
NADI AL FATAT takes pleasure in inviting you to the Arab and International Handicrafts Bazaar 1990 on Tuesday, May 15, 1990 at 5 pm. Representatives of the Arab and international diplomatic corps are participating in this festival. Demonstrations of traditional folk music and dance will occur daily from 7 pm. The bazaar will continue through for two days — Wednesday, May 16 and Thursday, May 17, 1990 from 10 am to 12 pm and 4 to 9 pm. The proceeds of all sales will be to the benefit of the orphaned children of Lebanon.

Santacruzian sa Nayon
THE newly inaugurated Cafe Maharika, owned and managed by two budding Filipino entrepreneurs — Rene Dizon and Larry Gallardo will hold the traditional "Santacruzian sa Nayon" on May 25. This will be a sort of beauty till searching for the most beautiful "Reyna Elena".

For contest particulars, anyone who's interested can contact either Rene or Larry at Cafe Maharika located at Fahd Al Saleem Street, Kuwait City, between Hardees and Souk Al Muntahida.

Approb meeting
THE bi-monthly meeting of the Approb members will be held on May 17, 1990, at 7 pm at the residence of Iqbal Latif.

The meeting will be followed by dinner and entertainment. All members are requested to attend.

Meanwhile, the Approb executive board has decided to compile "Who is who" directory of Pakistani professionals and businessmen in Kuwait. Modalities of the project will be discussed at the May 17 meeting.

Crazy Thieves
IAC presents a full length hilarious Tamil comedy drama "Crazy Thieves" directed by C. K. V. Raman, on May 25, 1990 at 7.00 pm at their auditorium in Funatics. For passes please contact on 3904817, 5616930, 4894874 and 3903879. Vantage seats can be received for yellow and white passes only on May 23 and 24, 1990 from 6.00 pm to 8.30 pm at IAC office in Funatics.

Indian Arts Circle
HERE'S good news for lovers of one-act plays. A wide variety of one-act plays to reach as wide an audience as possible is going to be staged from 17th to 31st May 1990 at the IAC auditorium for the 2nd IAC One Act Play Competition. After the roaring success of the 1st One Act Play Competition, 16 teams are planning to perform plays in languages ranging from Malayalam to Marathi. The inaugural offering is a Konkani play at 8 pm on the 17th May. Watch out for further information in this column.

Hyderabad Mushaira
THE committee for celebrations of four centuries of Hyderabad Deccan, is going to hold a grand Mushaira, on Thursday, May 17, 1990 at 7.30 pm at the Ice Skating Rink, Opp. TV Bldg, Kuwait. Guest poets from Hyderabad will participate in the Mushaira along with prominent local poets. Reserve your seats early to avoid disappointment. For passes and more information call Ehteshamuddin 2463116/7, Sikander Khan 5630557, M. Murtuza 5633880, Akhanoor 2402603/4. Khalish Hyderabad 4735591 ext. 34 (between 9.30 - 11.30 am).

Boushahri Gallery
An exhibition of paintings by eight Arab artists will be held at the Boushahri Gallery, North Salmiya Bldg, Salem Al Mubarak St., from May 7. The month-long exhibition is being held under the patronage of Dr Hassan Ali Ibrahim. Some of the artists who will exhibit their works include Jaafar Isiah, Jafar Kaki, Rashed Diyab, Dia Al Azawani and Saleh Jameel. It will be open to the public for a month. Timings: 9 am to 12.30 noon and 4 to 7.30 pm.

Painting exhibition
A PAINTING exhibition titled, Around the World, will be held at Kuwait International Hotel from May 8-16 by Mrs Luz Marina Colwell, an American citizen born in Colombia, South America. The exhibition will show subjects from different countries as well as a special section on Kuwait. It includes cityscapes, desertscapes, landscapes and Islamic designs. Tel.: 2530000.

Pakistan Arts Circle
THE executive committee of the Pakistan Arts Circle has the pleasure to announce its forthcoming programme, to be held on June 7, 1990, at 8.00 pm at the Sharq hall.

For further information, please contact Hamid Mahmood Tel. 4716258, Salman Shah 4769520 and M. K. Kidwai 4312016.

Kuwait Welsh Society
THE annual general meeting and social evening will be held at 8 pm on May 23, 1990. For details of venue etc., please ring 3912384, 3713467 or 5740256. Newcomers welcome.

Tamil drama
IAC presents a hilarious Tamil comedy by "Enthustas" after their last year's roaring success of *Unnaiye Unnaiye Enna*. Programme is at IAC hall on May 25, 1990 at 7.00 pm.

For entry passes contact 3904817, 5616930, 4894874 and 3903879.

NRI Update
THE NRI Investors Forum meeting in Indian embassy auditorium at 11.00 am on Friday, May 25, 1990. Up-to-date reporting on forthcoming Third Gulf NRI Conference in New Delhi. All Indians cordially invited.

Kuwait Singers
THE Kuwait Singers present a Spring Frolic at the Gulf English School, Salwa, 8 pm, May 16, 17. Refreshments provided. Bookings: 5384873 and 3900922.

Contact
THE last meeting of Contact, the Ladies Information Group, will be held on Saturday May 26, at 10 am at the Messilah Beach Hotel. Newcomers particularly welcome. For more information call 4874513 or 5388105.

Kalpak celebrates 1st anniversary
Kerala Arts & Literature Promoting Association of Kuwait celebrates its 1st anniversary at Indian embassy auditorium on Friday, May 25, 1990 at 5.00 pm.

A variety show will be held following the function to mark the anniversary celebrations.

Crazy Thieves
IAC presents full length hilarious Tamil comedy drama "Crazy Thieves" directed by C. K. V. Raman, on May 25, 1990 at 7.00 pm at their auditorium in Funatics. For passes please contact on Tel: 3904817, 5616930, 4894874 and 3903879. Vantage seats can be reserved for yellow and white passes only on May 23 and 24, 1990 from 6.00 pm to 8.30 pm at IAC office in Funatics.

IAC — 2nd One Act Play Competition
The 2nd One-Act Play Competition organised by Indian Arts Circle will be inaugurated at 7.30 pm on May 17, 1990 and not at 8 pm as published earlier in these columns, at the IAC auditorium in Funatics. The fare for the opening day consists of a play in Konkani, followed by Telugu and Marathi one-act plays.

Summer Affair '90
"Summer Affair '90" which had been postponed, will now be held on Thursday, May 24, 1990, at the Regency Palace Hotel. Highlights will be the selection and crowning of the 1990 Summer Queen and Miss Kodak. Passes held by guests are still valid. For fresh reservations please contact Julio 4315425, Hilary 5741380 and Mercedes 4890566.

Arab and International Handicrafts Bazaar 1990
NADI AL FATAT takes pleasure in inviting you to the Arab and International Handicrafts Bazaar 1990. Representatives of the Arab and international diplomatic corps are participating in this festival. Demonstrations of traditional folk music and dance will occur daily from 7 pm. The bazaar will start at 5.00 pm for two days — Wednesday, May 16 and Thursday, May 17, 1990 from 10 am to 12 pm and 4 to 9 pm. The proceeds of all sales will be to the benefit of the orphaned children of Lebanon.

Nadi Al Fatat is located on Araba Street, Khalidiya.

Kuwait players
KUWAITI Players presents A Room Full of Foreigners from May 28 to May 31 at the U.A.S. — Salwa — at 8.00 pm. For reservations phone 5321294 or 5615357.

Fitchek Inter-commercial Chess Tourney
THE Fitchek Chess Club in Kuwait (Fitchek) is now accepting entries for this year's Inter-Commercial Team Chess Tournament wherein each participating team will be composed of four regular players and two alternates. Group A rated players are qualified to play Boards 1 and 2 while Group B players will man Boards 3 and 4 with both groups having one alternate each. Non-Fitchek members can also be fielded but will have to take a series of tests to determine their individual rating.

The tournament is open to all Filipino chess enthusiasts. Entry forms are now available at the Fitchek headquarters at the new Kabayan Restaurant and the deadline for the submission of entries is on Friday, May 25, 1990. Opening ceremonies will be held on June 8, 1990 at the Messilah Beach Club during the Pre-Independence Day celebration being organised by the Philippine embassy.

For more details, please call Fitchek Headquarters at Tel. 240-2405.

Guardian Angel Club
The Guardian Angel Club take great pleasure in announcing their Konkani drama entitled "Ostorecho Mog" (Woman's Love) directed by Rennie J. Colaco, on June 8, 1990, at the IAC. Goan Charlie Chaplin — Jancito Vaz, Ophelia, H. Britton and Sebbby Coutinho are among the other well known Goan cast.

Indian Cuisine Centre
Indian art of fancied lak bangles and designful henna work comes live at the finest Indian cuisine centre of Kuwait at the Maharaja Palace Restaurant.

Come savour the delicacies whilst giving your lady a gift to cherish. For more information contact 2406150.

Opefor get-together dinner OVERSEAS
Pakistani Engineer's Forum is an association of Pakistani Engineers to promote socio-cultural activities in Kuwait. They are holding a get-together dinner at the SAS Hotel Ballroom on Thursday, May 17, 1990 at 7 pm. All members and their guests are welcome. For details, please contact: Kbusbeed Mozaffar 2459609, Bader Khan 5610544, Abdul-Rahim 3901491. Any Pakistani engineer who would like to join Opefor may also contact the above office-bearers for enrolment.

SPORTS

Windsurfing
ALL are welcome to the Messilah Beach Hotel open windsurfing event on Friday, May 25, 1990.

Prizes for experienced, novice and lady windsurfers. Entry fee is KD3. Maximum sail size 1D 7.5 square metres. For further information please call 5624111 ext. 739.

United Goans Centre
MAY 24, 1990: United Goans Centre takes pleasure to announce to all the Kiff affiliated clubs, their 12th Football League Tournament to be held during the last week of June at the Sour grounds. Draws will be held on the May 24, 1990 at 5 pm sharp in the Indian Casers Restaurant. Contact the organisers for further details.

HOTELS

Meridian Hotel
INDONESIAN CORNER: Enjoy Indonesian cuisine every Wednesday night at La Brasserie. In addition to our daily lavish buffet our chef will prepare Indonesian specialties in front of you.

JAZZ NIGHT: Enjoy New Orleans atmosphere with jazz and seafood specialties every Thursday in La Brasserie restaurant.

Enjoy a typical Oriental buffet lunch with Oriental organist every Friday in La Brasserie restaurant. Friday: Family day in La Brasserie.

VERSAILLES: Take advantage of our great value business lunch including starter, main course, dessert and coffee.

For dinner enjoy relaxing atmosphere provided by our resident artiste and finest cuisine with a la carte menu featuring chef specialties as fish or beef "fondue", grilled beef on "brasserie", ham-mour and salmon on "shingle" and many others.

HUNT ROOM: The famous Hunt Room restaurant offers some of the best meat and fish preparation for lunch and dinner with live entertainment nightly.

LE TARBOUCHE: Open for lunch and dinner. Le Tarbouche offers a wide selection of hot and cold buffet dishes for families and friends.

AL HAMBRA: Enjoy the Arabian Night theme at the Al Hambra with delicious Arabic dishes buffet style, nightly entertainment by Gili Amici and singer Maha.

AL ANDALUS Supper Club: For elegance and style, take time out for a quiet fine dining "Arabic Style" every Thursday night. For something truly different, take a choice from our exquisite Oriental and International cuisine. Our resident Arabic band provide wonderful music.

FRIDAY FAMILY
LUNCH: Entertainment at its best. Wonderful Disney fantasy for your kids. Prizes & surprises. Share this exciting day to make your Friday perfect.

SAS Hotel
BISTRETTO: Every Sunday and Wednesday night is pasta night at the Bistretto. Enjoy over 100 delightful combinations of pastas in a cheerful "Terraza" atmosphere or choose a table around the pool under the moonlight while our musicians will serenade you with romantic Italian favourites. For reservations, pls call up 5657000 ext. 301.

PEACOCK ROOM: Enjoy delectable Chinese specialties in the classy ambience of the Peacock Room. Our Chinese chef recommends special dishes aside from our well-loved Peacock menus. Open for lunch and dinner daily. For reservations pls call 5657000 ext. 403 or 532.

Asparagus promotion at the Riccardo

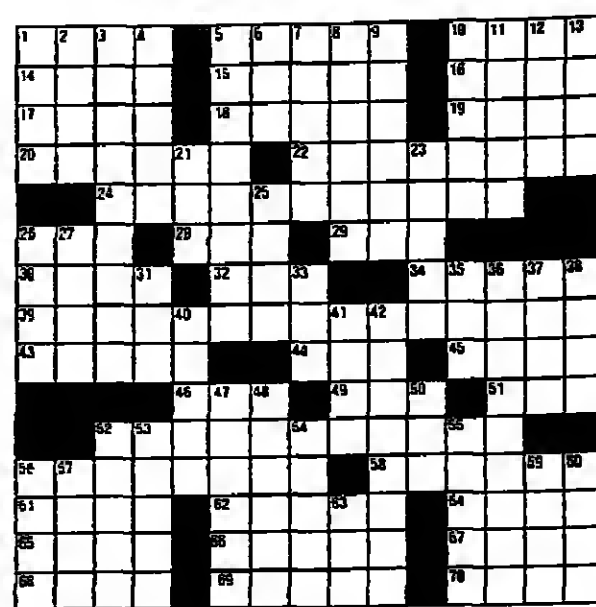
Kuwait Sheraton Hotel

For a special period of one week starting from May 20 to 26, 1990, the Kuwait Sheraton Hotel launches the "Asparagus" promotion at its famous "Riccardo" restaurant.

Those who enjoy food will appreciate the quality of the "Asparagus" which is proudly prepared and recommended by the executive chef Verdieck.

Egoiste: for those who dare
The new fragrance "Egoiste" by Chanel was launched at a press conference held at the Meridian Hotel recently. It is a fragrance for a man with a taste for action. It reveals a certain style and choice in aromas. Intensity, mystery and vigour are defined in Egoiste as a spicy woody vanilla fragrance. Its new bottle speaks of the man with an out of the ordinary personality. Egoiste presented in Kuwait by Hachbi and Chalhoub ranges from Eau de Toilette, lotion apres-rasage, mousse a raser, stick deodorant, deodorant and savon. The new fragrance marks an important step in Chanel's conquest of the bastion of men.

Picture shows (L-R) Veronique Savoure, Guy de Richemont, Michel Chalhoub, Christophe Juarez and Francoise Andre during the press conference.

BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake**HAGAR THE HORRIBLE** — By Dik Browne**AGATHA CRUMM** — By Bill Hoest**BEETLE BAILEY** — By Mont Walker**THE WIZARD OF ID** — By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart**ANDY CAPP****B.C.** — By Johnny Hart**HE-MAN** — By G. Forton & J. Shull**TODAY'S CROSSWORD**

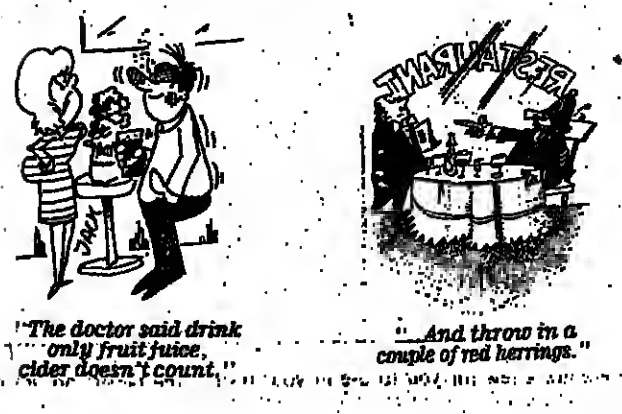
ACROSS
1 Uncloses, poetically
5 Fontayn and Markove
10 Cowpoke's pal
14 One more than centa
15 — Dram.
16 Show biz award
17 City near Provo
18 Bedrock
19 Market turns into a vehicle?
20 Malarkey
22 Fresh —
24 Confusion
26 Gone
28 What to do with one's i's
29 U.S. defense group
30 Inter —
32 Letters at the helm
34 Iota follower
39 Throw into confusion
43 A vote —
44 Hat for Hassan
45 First word in Massachusetts's motto
46 Cincal player
49 — o. u.
51 French conjunctions
52 Confused problem
56 Getting better
58 Flier of myth
61 Playwright Bagnold
62 Fluff a coil
64 Pueblo dweller
65 Sicilian spa
66 Bay window
67 Ornamental case
68 Domino of jazz

DOWN
1 "Oops!"
2 Llama land
3 Farm 1040
4 Brazilian export
5 Sound from a steeple
6 Finder's exclamation
7 "—, in Eden, I'm Adam"
8 Part of TAE entry
9 Thermoplastic resins
10 — leu (stew)
11 Nearly overflowing
12 Creeks
13 Paper size
21 "Sturm — Drang"
23 Neckline fill-in
25 Lab burner
26 Yesterday's acorns
27 Radius neighbor
31 Play a part
33 Grimm character
35 Stun
36 Poke through
37 Attention-gatter
38 Comic actor Roscoe
40 Irish county
41 Oscar-winning director David —
42 Namesakes of a biblical prophet
47 Horace Greeley was one
48 More 70 Across
50 Business abbr.
52 Trace
53 — the hills
54 Once more
55 Hopalong Cassidy flick
56 Take in sail
57 Dive Motto
59 "E pluribus —"
60 Silk, in Soissons
63 Food or weed feed-in

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:
CROW SAIFER PUMP
PAPA WROTE LITOR
OVEN DARED NILE
SINGSONG ANGLES
EAP ESCAPES
GUARDED OTTO
ANT TOTOMS NASN
STOKE ENE IGLOD
HOPI STARTS ILE
NOME SAINTED
DEGRADE UND
SINKER QINGDONG
TOTO TAINI DRAW
ADEN ENTIRE ELSE
BERG RAISED DYAM

GOREN BRIDGE**WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ**

- Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠J10652 ♥Q85 ♦72 ♣A83
Partner opens the bidding with a demand bid of two hearts. What do you respond?
Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠KQ9 ♥AQ7 ♦9872 ♣AQ7
Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond?
Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AJ108763 ♥85 ♦AKJ8 ♣Void
Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?
Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AJ108763 ♥85 ♦AKJ8 ♣Void
- The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 NT Pass 3 ♦ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass ?
What action do you take?
- Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AKQ1085 ♥QJ93 ♦AQ8 ♣Void
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one diamond. What action do you take?
- Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AKQ1085 ♥QJ93 ♦AQ8 ♣Void
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 NT Pass 3 ♦ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

**YOUR STARS**

- Aries** March 21 - April 20
Take things more as they come but do try to change for the better what is not inevitable. You should have more faith in yourself as well as having the courage of your convictions. There are some things to be pleased one to the smug about. Be consistent.
- Cancer** June 21 - July 20
Something you have only just learnt will prove to be extremely helpful. You will have a lot to do at work but you must not altogether neglect your personal life. Give sense of humour a bit of an airing. Be generous.
- Libra** Sept. 23 - Oct. 22
Before deciding on a course of action it would be best to discuss the matter with your partner. Make sure you do not lose touch with a friend who is moving house. Read the instructions carefully before using a new device. Be tactful.
- Capricorn** Dec. 21 - Jan. 19
If you try a different way of doing a certain thing you may well succeed. However do not altogether abandon the way you are using now until you are sure the other is better. Avoid eating too many sweet or savoury foods. Be realistic.
- Taurus** April 21 - May 20
You should make sure you do not squander time and energy on secondary pursuits. Something you are learning now requires lots of practice. Make sure you do not spend more than you can readily afford. Be frank.
- Leo** July 21 - Aug. 21
You could be faced with a rather serious situation but it will have its funny side too. Your lucky numbers are 15 and 38. Not everything will proceed as you would like it to, but something will turn out better than you had hoped.
- Scorpio** Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
If you are tired by the end of the day do not worry, just make sure you get enough rest. Leave yourself a little more time to deal with personal matters. Do not spend all your leisure time looking at television. Be resolute.
- Aquarius** Jan. 20 - Feb. 19
You make sure you do not get things out of proportion. Show just a little more goodwill towards others, even if they do not return the compliment though they probably will. Make sure you do forget a birthday. Be forgiving.
- Gemini** May 21 - June 20
You are too liable to allow yourself to be distracted and should do all you can to prevent it. If you attempt to do things too quickly you will merely end up by doing them badly. You should keep your wits about you and avoid jumping to conclusions. Be fair.
- Virgo** Aug. 22 - Sept. 22
Something that you had expected will not now transpire and you will have to change to adhere to an appointment. Avoid doing anything that is even a little dishonest. Be tolerant.
- Sagittarius** Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
There will become not altogether good news but you should not permit yourself to become discouraged, there is a bright side too. And of all the irons you have in the fire one at least is bound to catch light. Have a silent chuckle rather than taking everything so seriously.
- Pisces** Feb. 20 - March 20
You will have to be more careful when on the road either driving or walking. Any excessive concern a mistake you make. Be generous.



"You seem to have the qualifications we're looking for in a bookkeeper."



"Six boxes of cookies for you, and no arguments."

VARIETY

Mother-in-law myth

'She's a victim of 'bad press'

BOSTON, (UPI) — They've been reviled in literature, cartoons and sitcoms. They've been made the butt of countless jokes. But mothers-in-law may really be the victims of bad press.

The stereotype of the domineering, controlling mother-in-law out to break up her son or daughter's marriage is rarely true to life, says Eileen Nickerson, a professor of counselling psychology at Boston University.

"Our research indicates that image is probably off the mark, that it's normally not true, just like in literature mothers get very bad press," Nickerson said.

While mothers-in-law can make mistakes as they try to adjust to having a new member of the family, Nickerson said her research found that mothers-in-law — popularly perceived as having the most strained relationships — actually end up being positive forces in each others' lives.

Prospective mothers-in-law may have "a number of initial prejudices" about the person their adult child has chosen to be a partner. In some cases, women don't make an effort to get to know the new member of the family, but most make a good-faith effort to overcome their misgivings, Nickerson said.

"Most mothers-in-law show a lot of sensitivity and concern and respect for the importance of this whole process. They try to be respectful of that, to be available but not to be the stereotypical mother-in-law becoming a likeable in-law means accepting the mate your adult child has chosen — whether or not you approve."

"You have to hate the person that they choose and you didn't make that choice. You may have had a very different choice," Nickerson said.

Nickerson said the situation is somewhat similar to that of a stepmother faces — a new family comes as part of a package deal. However, mothers-in-law have an easier role: they usually do not have to live with their sons and daughters-in-law, only to endure their company at family dinners.

Nickerson acknowledges that in-laws sometimes attribute their grown children's problems to their spouses, but says most are interested in seeing the problems solved rather than assigning blame.

"It is possible, for example, that in-laws could blame the child's partner for whatever problems they're having, like if the person's an alcoholic. Most in-laws are more interested in having it work out. Most in-laws would like to see their adult child and their child's choice happy. On the whole the desire is to have it work out."

An in-law's disapproval may also be incurred for "a compelling reason" — as when her grown child marries someone who is physically abusive, or a drug user.

"But again you have to respect that you can't make that choice," Nickerson said.

In some cases, tensions may arise when an adult child marries someone from a different ethnic, racial or religious group. The key to overcoming prejudice is to keep an open mind and be patient, Nickerson said.

"If you're the person who's the recipient of it, I would assume and hope that you would talk with your partner. People do change their minds. It's important that you not keep it from letting people get to know you," she said. She added it helps to show an interest in and a willingness to respect your in-laws' customs, although it is not necessary to adopt their ways.

"If you're the one that objects strongly, a lot of people will go to religious counselling," Nickerson said, explaining that prejudices frequently stem from "something to do with us, some kind of past issue."

New in-laws can find help in dealing with adjustments in family relationships through support groups, reading self-help books and seeking professional counselling, often on a short-term basis, Nickerson said. However, she said, it is important to realise that in-laws can be a support instead of a burden.

In-laws don't have to become substitute parents or surrogate children in order to have a good relationship, Nickerson said.

"I think of it as more of a supplement. Being a parent is the most difficult job on the face of the earth. It's good to have some kind of time out, to have something you can turn to."

"It can be a real plus."

Tragedy that inspired Peter's home cinema

By Claire Lockhart

COMPANY director Peter Hayward can enjoy a night at the pictures every day of the week without leaving home because he has his own 70-seat cinema.

And the mini-movie house has a special purpose by raising money for a cancer fund set up in memory of Peter's late business partner, John Bowers, who died of the disease three years ago.

Peter, 59, who was a projectionist during World War Two, admits the little cinema is a dream come true. He said: "It was John's last wish that money should be raised to help other cancer sufferers. I thought a cinema was a good way of doing it."

The 45 sq. ft. cinema was originally a music studio in which Peter, a director of an international loudspeaker manufacturers, used to make demonstration tapes.

But when his partner John died in 1987, Peter converted the studio and now, with the help of his wife Kathy, he screens a movie a month to raise money for the cancer fund.

At his home in Storrington, Sussex, Peter told me: "It's become very popular. People come from miles around. We don't charge them but Kathy tells them all about the fund and asks for a donation."

The plus movie house cost Peter between £30,000 and £50,000 to build — and he thinks it's worth every penny. He told me: "The 16mm projectors came from a London news theatre which closed down about three or four years ago. And the seats are from the Assembly Hall, Worthing. The rest of the equipment is connected with the other work I do."

Showing such top-rate fare as *Rain Man*, *The Last Emperor* and *Batman*, the little cinema has already raised £9,000 for the John Bowers Appeal.

That amount has been doubled by Band W Loudspeakers, which Peter co-founded with John. The money raised has already paid for a portable scanner for the community.

Kathy, a nurse, told me: "We invite people as friends to come and see a film. And then I tell them about the fund. We had a presentation evening when we bought the scanner — which was great because then everyone could see where their money was going."

Peter loves running the cinema. This way we're enjoying it, the audience is enjoying the films and we're raising money for cancer sufferers, too."

Film buff Peter has his own small collection of films including vintage newsreels. He told me: "I've got about 150 going as far back as the war years but most of them are from the Sixties and the Seventies. When the film is a little short, we just add a couple of newsreels."

For the monthly performances Kathy acts as usherette, for the evening while Peter relives old times as the projectionist.

"I was projectionist at the Revoli cinema in Worthing for about 10 years. It started as a craze I had for watching films. So I worked at the local cinema in the evenings for two years before I left school."



Kathy and Peter in their home cinema

Every customer helps cancer sufferers



Peter Hayward loads his projector.

"We used to do shows for the Canadian troops staying in Worthing during the war. We even opened on Christmas Day to give

them some entertainment.

"And when I left school I went into the cinema full-time for about seven years before doing National Service. So cinema and films have always been in my blood."

Peter's cinema, the only one for 14 miles, attracts all age groups and the films, which cost about £60 to hire, always play to a packed house.

Kathy told me: "We're very particular about the films we show. Peter is fussy about the quality of the prints — and we don't like the really violent modern films."

Peter said: "We have to be careful about the films we choose because so many of them are gory and violent. So now we are letting our regulars choose the films for themselves."

And Kathy and I often watch a movie together in the evening. "We enjoy films of the forties like *I Remember Mama* with Barbara Bel Geddes who, of course, is now famous as Miss Ellie in *Dallas*."

"But I also enjoy modern films and two of my favourites are *The Last Emperor* and *The Mission* which can only be appreciated on the big screen."

"It's much better to see a film at the cinema instead of waiting for it to come on television because it's much better quality and the image is so much bigger. Also when people go to the pictures, they have to come out in order to watch the film rather than sit at home trying to find

something to amuse them for a while. And at home you're interrupted, anyway."

"Cinemas have a better atmosphere because everyone is concentrating on the film and the film isn't used as background to do something else."

He believes cinema-going went out of fashion because it is easier not to go out. "But I think it is becoming popular again. I'd love to see all the bingo halls converted back to cinemas. But I doubt if it will happen."

Although Peter mourns the loss of the great cinemas — the Revoli burned down in the Sixties — the villagers of Storrington are well satisfied with the Hayward's movie house. In fact, its popularity has spread and now Peter and Kathy have to put on extra screenings for the local Women's Institute and the Rotary Club.

Peter recalls: "There was a lot of curiosity when we built the cinema. I think it was a surprise when they found out what it was. It's certainly unusual to have a cinema in your own home."

And now the screenings at the little cinema are one of the social events of the month for the local community. "People know they can come here now and have a good time, meet friends and enjoy a good movie," said Kathy.

And at the same time they will be remembering cancer victim John Bowers and giving hope to other sufferers.

FAMILY DOCTOR
By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

QUESTION: My kid just doesn't seem to listen to anything I say, and certainly can't sit still long enough to have a talk with. Even my neighbours are beginning to make comments, and one friend thinks that I'm dealing with a child with conduct that has the word "hyperactive" in it. I need some advice and information. Can you help, please?

ANSWER: I certainly can offer you some information that may help, but this is a condition where the child must be observed and examined by a physician in order to get a clear understanding of the problem and the information needed to make correct diagnosis.

I believe your friend is referring to a condition known as Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). It is a neurological condition that causes a child to be easily distracted from the task at hand, inattentive, impulsive and hyperactive when compared to other children of the same age. In some cases, particularly girls, the hyperactivity is less pronounced or noticeable. With or without hyperactivity, this condition may affect from 2 per cent to 10 per cent of all children, and hyperactive behaviour is the most common problem now being referred for care to child guidance clinics in the United States.

The diagnosis will depend upon the presence or absence of certain behaviour patterns, and the severity will be judged by the effect on the child's ability to function. There are 14 behavioural criteria listed for ADHD and there must be at least eight present for six or more months to make the diagnosis. Here are a few for you to use in your own preliminary evaluation of your child. Children with this disorder often fidget with hands and feet or squirm in seat, have difficulty in remaining seated when required to do so,

Parents wonder whether child is hyperactive

are easily distracted by things happening outside the immediate area, and have difficulty in waiting turns in games or group situations.

As you can see it is not a simple task to arrive at the correct diagnosis, which is a must if an effective therapeutic plan is to be fashioned. Prescription medications are one route available to you, but this is a problem in which the solution is neither instantaneous nor complete, and you should proceed step by step for a complete evaluation, meanwhile gathering all the information and resources that you may need to help you cope effectively. Your ability to help your child is most important to the outcome of any treatment.

ACROSS MY DESK: Of great interest to people who suffer seizure disorders, and are currently taking the anti-seizure drug "carbamazepine," are the results of recent studies announced by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Searching for the reasons that some epilepsy patients have complained about the drug's changing ability to control seizure attacks, researchers at the University of Tennessee at Memphis and the FDA discovered that humidity can affect the way the tablets worked when taken orally. When exposed to humid conditions, the tablets hardened, making it difficult for the body to absorb them, thus losing one-third of their effectiveness in some cases. The FDA is now requesting the manufacturers to change their method of packaging to insure that the tablets do not come in contact with any excessive moisture. These tests were conducted on carbamazepine in tablet form only and do not involve the chewable tablets or liquid forms.

Krays' reign of terror glorified

Critics divided over film

By Anne Senior

LONDON, (Reuters) — Two low-life gangsters who lorded it over London's crime world in the 1960s are still scandalising Britain from behind prison bars by making a small fortune out of a film biography.

Twin brothers Reggie and Ronnie Krays rose from the slums to become powerful gangland leaders who lived it up in London of the "Swinging Sixties."

The Krays' reign of terror ended when they were jailed for murder in 1969 but public fascination with the brothers, who won many admirers among would-be rebels of the day, continues to be fed by the British media.

A film on their past, *The Krays*, is now playing to packed houses in Britain, drawing good reviews but strong criticism from those who say it makes money for convicted killers and glamorises a life of violence and crime.

The twins, played by two British pop stars who are also brothers, were paid £250,000 (\$420,000) to drop an earlier contract covering rights to the story, said a spokeswoman for the production com-

pany Fugitive Features.

The Krays' elder brother, Charlie, also worked as an adviser on the £2.8 million (\$4.6 million) study of London's underworld and two of its most infamous leaders.

The release of *The Krays* was heralded by a burst of publicity in Britain's tabloid newspapers, which seized the opportunity to delve again into the brothers' already well-chronicled lives.

Ronnie, who is serving a life prison sentence in a maximum security hospital for the criminally insane, attracted much media attention last year when he married a woman who used to work for a kissogram service.

Some newspapers, quoting the Krays' publicity agent, have reported the brothers were being offered huge sums for exclusive interviews upon their release.

The independent newspaper warned that the payout could lead to "cheque-book cinema" where criminals were richly rewarded for divulging details of their offences.

Members of the ruling Conservative Party reacted angrily to the disclosures

and the government announced that it would consider laws to stop murderers and other serious criminals being paid for films based on their exploits.

"What the producers have done is to glorify the squalid, cynical and atrocious acts of violence and murder committed by these men," said a Conservative politician Steven Norris.

But the film makers reject the criticisms.

"Gory Hollywood films open all the time and nobody bats an eyelid," the spokeswoman said. "This is a good and moving story."

Ronnie was convicted of murdering a man at a bar in London's run-down East End, where the brothers' gang "The Firm" had its headquarters. Reggie was jailed for murdering gangland rival Jack "The Hat" McVitie at a party in north London.

They were ordered to serve at least 30 years for their crimes, which would make them eligible for release in 1999.

In a suitably theatrical twist the now middle-aged brothers are said to have renounced violence and taken up charity work, gaining many supporters who cam-

paign for their freedom.

With their tough-guy image the Krays resembled hard-bitten heroes of fiction and films popular during the 1950s and 1960s.

Their menacing air was captured by society photographer David Bailey and became one of the telling portraits of the era, echoed in posters for the film by its two stars Gary and Martin Kemp of the pop group Spandau Ballet.

The film, an immediate box office hit in Britain, is scheduled to open in the United States around September and is also to be distributed in Europe.

Critics are divided over whether it comes across as a glorification of violence or an indictment of gangland brutality.

Some argue that by showing graphic scenes of violence with plenty of blood — a hand speared by a sword, a blade forced into a man's mouth — the film breaks the mystique surrounding the brothers.

Others say the film's attempt to link the brothers' love of power with boyhood deprivation in bombed out London and the strong influence of women in the Krays clan is unconvincing.

Video reviews
What's new on the home video scene in US

By Jack E. Wilkinson

● *The Little Mermaid*: A delightful, bubbling, shimmering fairy tale for the kids that adults can appreciate and marvel at its flowing artistry. Barking back to the Disney magic of old, The Hans Christian Andersen story tells of a wide-eyed, headstrong mermaid named Ariel, who against the wishes of her father, King Triton, journeys to the upper world and falls in love with a prince she has saved from drowning. There are plenty of hazards before the happy ending with the usual lovebirds, pals, like shy, bumbling Flounder and Sebastian the crusty, reggae-singing crab, and a typical Disney menace, Ursula, the scheme, diabolical sea witch. The superb animation is further enhanced by an Oscar-winning musical score.

1989, 83 minutes. Walt Disney Home Video. Rated G.

● *Harlem Nights*: The setting is Harlem of the '30s. Eddie Murphy and Richard Pryor run a thriving nightclub with a ruthless downtown mobster Covets. Murphy, who also directed, produced and wrote the script, plays it straight as quick, adopted son of Pryor and co-owner and enforcer at Sugar Ray's Club. When the hood's henchman, led by crooked cop Danny Aiello, come calling, it's a case of quick and the dead. Murphy cast his character as charming one minute, a cold-eyed killer the next. Pryor is mostly subdued while Redd Foxx, Della Reese and, briefly, Arsenio Hall, move in and out of character. The movie is a handsome one, all dressed up in finery of the day, but unfortunately with no place to go. Despite the richness of the period and a carload of talent, the overlong film falls considerably short of its potential.

1989, 118 minutes. Paramount Home Video. Rated R.

● *Dad*: This is a movie about growing older, about love and family, life and joy. An original, fresh film with splendid writing and acting, a movie to see and think about. Jack Lemmon plays Jake Tremont, once quite active, now, in his late 70s, calmly deteriorating under the overprotective eye of his wife Bette (Olympia Dukakis). Their stockbroker son John (Ted Danson), called home when Bette has a mild heart attack, is stunned when he sees what shape his father is in and sets out to revitalize him and restore a once close relationship. A hit depressing at times, but overall heartwarming and humorous, on target with a side of life to which we can all relate. Sooner or later.

1989, 117 minutes. MCA Home Video, Rated PG.

● *Drugstore Cowboy*: A grimly fascinating inside peek at the netherworld of the drug addict. Certainly far from a pretty picture, but an absorbing, realistic one. Matt Dillon, in the best showing of his career, plays full-time junkie Bob Hughes, who leads his wife (Kelly Lynch) and another addict couple on a reckless crime spree. Bonnie and Clyde style. But, instead of knocking off banks, they rob drugstores — of drugs, of course — so everyone literally can have a high old time. Bohemian life he's doing and sees no reason to change his destructive lifestyle until one day his luck runs out.

1989, 104 minutes. International Video Entertainment. Rated R.

● *Harvey*: One of James Stewart's best performances in one of his favourite films, from four decades



Eddie Murphy stars in Harlem Nights.

ago, is finally making it to home video and has lost not an ounce of charm over the years. Stewart is good-natured uplifter Elwood P. Dowd, whose best buddy is a 6-foot-3-inch invisible rabbit named Harvey in this vibrant screen adaptation of Mary Chase's Pulitzer Prize-winning play. Josephine Hull won an Oscar as Elwood's distraught sister who lo her eagerness to marry off her daughter tries to hide Elwood in a mental hospital only to wind up committed herself. Harvey, of course, comes to the rescue. A gentle, sunny, funny gem.

1950, 104 minutes. MCA Home Video. No MPAA rating.

Vidbits

Look who's the new No. 1 among video rentals: The romantic comedy *Look Who's Talking as Dead Poets Society* drops to second in the latest Billboard Magazine survey.

● *Twin Peaks*, David Lynch's eerie, much-discussed TV mini-series, is headed for home video "as soon as possible," according to Warner spokesman Michael Finnegan.

● In a unique and innovative cross-production, MCA-Universal releases *Back To The Future - Part II* on video cassette May 24 — one day before *Back To The Future - Part III* hits the theatres in America.

● The trade magazine *Video Insider* reports plans for a video series of "director's cut" versions of some recent blockbuster films with expanded or different footage. Under consideration: another ending for *Fatal Attraction* and 17 additional minutes for *Alien* to explain why Ripley risks all to save the young girl from the queen mother of the aliens....



Natural choices

Vegetable dyes are a great alternative to temporary colour. Ready-to-use natural colours like camomile and walnut stain the hair — the colour's depth depends on your natural shade. Try *The Body Shop* Herbal Hair Colours or *Henara's Natural Colouring Powders*.

Permanent changes

If you want to go blonde, have highlights or be a totally different colour, you'll need to use a permanent colour.

■ Tinting your hair with a permanent colour allows you to go as dark as you like or a few shades lighter than your natural

Hi-lights, lo-lights for a head start

colour. Permanent colours work with peroxide, penetrating into the deepest layers of the hair where the colour is trapped so it can't be washed out. Because of the chemical changes taking place, it's essential to leave the colour on your hair for the correct amount of time. Try *L'Oréal's Recital Performance* (24 shades); *Poly's Colour Story* (22 shades); *Clairol's Nice 'n' Easy*, (22 shades), or *Wella's Colour Confidence*. Remember that you'll need to touch up your roots about every four to six weeks.

■ Highlights and lowlights give a more natural effect than a solid colour tint because the colour's applied only to scattered sections of the hair — which also means fewer regrowth problems than block tints. But home kits can sometimes be tricky to use so you should get a friend to help you with them.

■ Highlights look great on fair, mousey or mid-brown hair but no darker — it won't look natural. They work by lightening individual strands of hair to give a subtle fairer look.

■ Lowlights are more suitable for darker hair. They work in a similar way to highlights. Peroxide is mixed with a cream tint which adds warm, rich colours. High and lowlighting home kits include *Wella's Contrasts*, *Clairol's Born Blonde* Highlights, *Polli Hi-lights* and *Lo-lights* and *L'Oréal's Recital Highlighting Kit*.

When you should and shouldn't colour your hair at home

Don't attempt to colour your hair if:

- It's already been lightened and you want to go back to your natural shade.
- You've darkened your hair with a permanent colour and want to go lighter again.

In both cases see a hairdresser.

Take care using permanent colours if:

- You've recently had a perm. Make sure your hair's in good condition as the chemicals used in a perm will have made it more vulnerable.
- You're pregnant. There's no conclusive evidence that colouring your hair can harm your baby but if you're still worried, then it's best to avoid hair colours during your first three months of pregnancy.

Tips to know before you start

Always do a strand test on your hair before colouring it, to see how well the colour will take.

- Check for sensitivity by doing a skin test on the inside of your elbow or behind your ear about 48 hours before applying the colour.
- When lightening your hair, always leave

the colour on long enough — taking it off too soon could result in orange hair because the lightening process won't have been completed.

- When using a particularly dark shade it helps to apply a little barrier cream like Vaseline around the hair line to prevent your skin staining. It's especially helpful if you have dry skin.

On the temporary side

Temporary colours don't contain peroxide so they can't dramatically alter your natural hair colour. They do add warmer tones which fade with washing.

Colour rinses

These are the weakest temporary shades and last for one shampoo. They coat the hair with a little colour to enhance natural highlights and tones. Rinses are good at brightening up light and mid-brown hair. Choose a shampoo like *Shaders & Toners* (10 shades), or try a coloured setting lotion like *Wella's Colour Set*.

Semi-permanents

These penetrate further into the hair. They last between six and eight washes. Choose a shade that's near your natural colouring. Semi-permanents are easy to use — simply shampoo in and leave for 10 to 30 minutes. Leave it on longer for a deeper colour. Try *Harmony Conditioning Hair Colours*, (come in 12 shades), or *Clairol's Glist* (eight shades).

Sardinians fear Cup hooligans

CAGLIARI, Sardinia, May 15, (Reuters): Many of Cagliari's inhabitants are looking forward to the World Cup with all the enthusiasm their ancestors must have felt before Vandal and Goth invaders attacked Sardinia 15 centuries ago.

Up to 10,000 English supporters, who include some of the worst soccer hooligans in the world, are expected on the island, where their side is based for the first round.

Around 7,000 Dutch fans, who have an almost equally fearsome reputation, will follow their team, which meets England in Cagliari on June 16 — potentially the most explosive date on the World Cup calendar.

Senior officials and police say they are confident they can handle the assault and Cagliari prefect Mario Paxi, under pressure from local traders, has so far rejected British pleas for a ban on alcohol sales before and after matches.

But most ordinary people are not so calm.

"We are not looking forward to it at all. People are frightened because the English and Dutch are coming ... the English are bad, they are crazy. They will get drunk from the first day and cause a real mess," said taxi driver Cesare Deidda.

"It would be better if they stayed at home. For sure there is going to be trouble. They will ruin the city and some poor people will get hurt too," said his colleague Stefano Farci, adding that he would not work after matches for fear of violence.

Former Italy and Cagliari soccer star Gigi Riva said he would not allow his two sons to go to the stadium. "There is a danger we will not be able to go out of our homes without being attacked," he said.

Many people say Sardinians, famed for their bandit kidnappers, violent vendettas and boxers, could take the law into their own hands if the hooligans cause trouble.

Mayor Paolo de Magistris, who wants a 36-hour liquor ban each side of the three Cagliari matches, told Reuters: "I fear a battle. Our people are not angels."

"The stadium is near one of Cagliari's most working class districts where crime is rife. You could say the troops are already drawn up ... this is an area where there is a certain readiness to use the knife," he declared.

Farci said: "We say if you don't go looking for him a Sardinian won't cause you any trouble. Otherwise you had better watch out. It will be easy to identify fans who cause trouble."

Many people also resent the way Sardinia was chosen to host England in the hope of isolating and better controlling unruly fans.

"As usual Sardinia has been treated like in the old days when the troublemakers in the police and army were sent here."

"Sardinia is being used again, exploited ... once again it's a place for banishing people," Farci said.

Flying Arrows move into finals of Kuwait Independents Cup

MARTIN'S fine set of goals saw Flying Arrows through to the finals of the Kuwait Independent Cup. Flying Arrows defeated Kuwait Independents Black by 2 goals to 1 in the semifinals at the Ahmadi Grounds on Friday.

Flying Arrows beaming with confidence, despite fielding their second string, outplayed Kuwait

Independents Black in every department of the game. Kuwait Independents, on the other hand, were nowhere near a shadow of the team that has produced a string of upset victories by defeating nearly all the top teams during this season.

Martin's consistency has always been a threat to all the

teams and it was a similar story in this game as he dribbled and outran not only the opposition but also his colleagues losing support at the crucial stages. Nevertheless, Martin's first goal was scored off a stray ball he received after Sunil had done the hard work and at half-time Flying Arrows led by a solitary goal.

After lemon-time, Flying Arrows raided the rival citadel frequently but lacked finishing power. Midway through the second half, Sunil's through ball to Martin caught the defence on the wrong foot and easily beat the onrushing goalkeeper to put Flying Arrows two up.

But Kuwait Independents

fought back admirably and pulled one back through Jude. They kept trying for an equaliser but eventually ran out of time. Flying Arrows meet Unity in the finals.

Earlier in the day Unity got a walkover in the semifinals of the Sharma Trophy when Pak XI

failed to turn up. Unity is scheduled to meet Cosmos in the finals.

Games scheduled for Friday, May 18: 5pm Kuwait Independents (Gold) vs Flying Arrows; 5pm Unity vs Cosmos.

Both games are semifinals of the Champions Trophy.

Fiorentina face tough task

Juventus set for Uefa Cup final

AVELLINO, Italy, May 15, (Reuters): Fiorentina will need to produce their best performance of the season against Juventus in Wednesday's Uefa Cup final second leg if they are to overcome a 3-1 first leg deficit.

A 2-0 victory would be enough to give Fiorentina their first European trophy since they won the Cup Winners' Cup in 1961, but they have not scored more than once in any match in the previous rounds.



Zoff, last match with Juventus

Home leg advantage will count for nothing as Fiorentina, who narrowly avoided relegation this season, have been forced to play the tie in the small-town stadium of Avellino in southern Italy because of crowd trouble during the semifinal.

But trainer Francesco Graziani, the former World Cup player brought in after Bruno Giorgi was sacked six weeks ago, says he has three reasons to be hopeful of a Fiorentina victory — fitness, enthusiasm and 23-year-old Italian midfielder Roberto Baggio.

Baggio, the League's second highest scorer with 17 goals this season, summed up Fiorentina's tactics simply. "Attack, attack, attack. We've got to score straight away," he said.

Ironically, it is likely to be Baggio's last match for Fiorentina. Juventus are expected to announce soon afterwards that he will be joining them next season.

Graziani has no injury problems to contend with and will field the same team that played in the first leg. Brazilian international Dunga joins the squad late after playing 45 minutes in Brazil's friendly against East Germany in Rio de Janeiro on Sunday.

The match will be the last for Juventus manager Dino Zoff, who has already guided the club to the Italian Cup this season and a guaranteed place in Europe next year.

Juventus, whose last European trophy was the European Cup in 1985, are releasing the former Italian World Cup captain after two years as manager because they had already agreed to hire Bologna coach Luigi Maifredi.

The mood in the Juventus camp is relaxed despite some last-minute problems with the

line-up. Defender Dario Bonetti is disqualified and midfielder Daniele Fortunato is injured.

Libero Roberto Tricella appears to have recovered just in time from a torn ligament in mid-April and Zoff is expected to move Soviet signing Sergei Aleinikov into a more defensive role.

The attack will be entrusted as usual to Sicilian-born Salvatore Schillaci, who was called up for the Italian World Cup squad last month.

Brazilian international Julio Cesar has reached agreement for a transfer next season to First Division Juventus.

Cesar, 27, who is currently with French club Montpellier, told Italy's Gazzetta Dello Sport newspaper he had had talks with Juventus officials last week, but said the transfer would not yet be formally announced.

French club Metz are reportedly interested in British striker John Salako, one of the stars of the Crystal Palace team that forced Manchester United to Thursday night's FA Cup final replay.

Nigerian-born Salako came under the scrutiny of Metz officials at Saturday's 3-3 Wembley draw.

Also in Britain, Chelsea have agreed to pay Norwich a club record fee of £1.15 million (\$1.9 million) for Irish international Andy Townsend.

Chelsea are worried, however, that if Townsend shines too brightly during the World Cup finals next month, foreign teams could show an interest. They are hoping to clinch the deal before the final begins.



Maradona (left) and a team-mate watch a training session. (Reuters wirephoto)

Maradona may quit Napoli before 1993

TRIGORIA, Italy, May 15, (Reuters): Diego Maradona hinted yesterday he might leave Napoli and return to Argentina before 1993 when his contract with the Italian soccer champions expires.

The 1986 World Cup star told reporters he hoped to return to Argentine club Boca Juniors in 1992.

"I don't want to jump the gun, but I hope it can be earlier (than 1993). Maybe 1992," Maradona said after the provisional Argentine World Cup squad had completed a strenuous practice.

"Boca has already drawn up a programme, including who will be club president, a new team jersey and an advertising shirt."

Maradona has often said he wanted to end his career at Boca, the club he inspired to their last Argentine First Division title in 1981.

Maradona, who captained Napoli to their second successive World Cup triumph and third overall in the finals starting in Italy on June 8.

The Argentine squad are preparing under coach Carlos Bilardo at Italian club as Roma's training camp in the village of Trigoria outside Rome.

Maradona scored a brilliant goal with a lob over the goalkeeper and generally put in as much effort as in any proper match during a 90-minute practice game.

The Argentinians, with Bilardo making numerous changes to the line-up as the game went on, won 5-0 against Renato Cesarini, an Argentine Minor League side who also helped the national team during their preparations in Mexico four years ago.

The likely television audience for the World Cup is estimated at 20 billion viewers.

Striker Alan McNally, who plays for West German First Division Bayern Munich, has been called into Scotland's squad for their soccer friendly against fellow World Cup finalists Egypt in Aberdeen tomorrow.

United again tipped to win

LONDON, May 15, (Reuters): After a season of drama and disappointment, Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson looks to Wembley on Thursday as the source of his salvation.

But after watching his team draw 3-3 in Saturday's enthralling English FA Cup final, Ferguson knows Crystal Palace will be no easy opponents in Thursday evening's replay.

Despite starting as favourites for a seventh title, United came close to a historic defeat due to some appalling goalkeeping by Scotland international Jim Leighton and two fine goals by Palace's second-half substitute Ian Wright.

But United's £13 million (\$20 million) line-up still looks likely to triumph in the end, despite the defensive gaps and several missed chances

in Saturday's match.

"There were times when we didn't defend well," Ferguson admitted then in a place of understatement that could sum up the season spent perilously close to the relegation zone.

Booted by the fans earlier in the season and with the media busily predicting his imminent departure, Ferguson has relied on success in the FA Cup as a managerial lifeline.

He can take comfort from the knowledge that the last time United drew an FA Cup final — against Brighton in 1983 after almost losing — they easily won the replay 4-0.

The final replay is the fourth in the last 10 years and will go to a penalty shoot-out for the first time in FA Cup history if it again ends in a draw after extra-time.

South Londoners Palace, enjoying their first FA Cup final, are happy in the knowledge that they have already achieved far more than they dreamed of at the start of the season.

They have also turned a tidy profit from the Cup, with manager Steve Coppell expected to have an extra £750,000 (\$1.2 million) to spend on players next season.

"We haven't any debts. We don't owe anybody anything. So unless we throw it away, we've got it to spend," Palace chairman Ron Noades said of the unexpected Cup windfall.

Both clubs hope to have full-strength squads although United have a worry about defender Gary Pallister, who damaged an ankle on Saturday and has only a 50-50 chance of playing.

Brazilians criticized

RIODEJANEIRO, Brazil, May 15, (UPI): Brazilian sports writers were very critical yesterday of the national soccer team's 3-3 draw with East Germany Sunday night.

"If the flaws are not corrected there will be no chance (of winning) the World Cup," the newspaper Folha de Sao Paulo said of Sunday night's game, that was tied by East Germany in the final minute with a goal by Steinmann.

A total of 80,000 spectators attended the game at the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro, and police reported that nine fans were injured as a result of fighting in the stands.

The game was Brazil's last home international before it travels to Europe for the World Cup finals in Italy. East Germany failed to qualify for the final stage of the tournament.

The Brazilian team fell apart when it was leading 3-1 midway through the second half after goals by Alemão after 43 minutes, Dunga after 59 minutes and Careca in the 66th minute.

Fifa inciting violence: Charlton

DUBLIN, May 15, (UPI): Republic of Ireland national soccer team manager Jack Charlton yesterday accused Fifa, world soccer's governing body, of potentially inciting violence at the upcoming World Cup finals in Italy.

"They are making everybody frightened to death because of all the talk about security problems," Charlton said.

"Effectively they have invited every lunatic in the world to go to Sardinia for a bloodbath."

Ireland has been drawn in Group F in the opening

phase of the World Cup finals, along with England, Holland and Egypt. The supporters of England and Holland have a bad reputation for violence, and trouble is widely predicted when the two sides meet in Sardinia June 16.

"The police will be hyped up and on edge and will not want to make a mistake," Charlton said. "Any fan who is seen singing or swinging his arms about could be seen as a threat, not as somebody who is enjoying themselves."

"I just wish everyone would let us get on with playing in the World Cup," he added.

Colts win President's Trophy, share another

LANKA COLTS (Trico) first beat Brothers Sporting by nine wickets in the final of the President's Trophy and then defeated Falcon CC by two wickets in the last match of the GCL championship at the EPI Park on Friday.

In the President's Trophy 45-over final, Brothers Sporting, batting first, were bogged down by some tidy Colts bowling to be all out for 165 in 42 overs. Raju and Manoj with 30 runs each, Narsish with 22 and skipper Masud with 35 being the noteworthy performers with the bat. The wickets for the Colts were shared by Nakala, Ralph, Oliver, Lal and Ramzan all of whom bowled economical spells.

With regular opener Nakala opting to bat lower down the order, the Colts opened their innings through Ramzan and Chris in sultry and trying conditions. With the Colts total on 41, Ramzan was snapped up by Kamal off Manoj for a well-struck 25 runs. Skipper Hiran and Chris were next associated in an entertaining 17-run partnership to bring up a well-deserved Colts victory in just 25.2 overs with almost 20 overs to spare.

The highlight of the Colts innings was a scintillating, smashbuckling 100 n.o. by the regular No. 3, Chris Amarasekera, who tore the heart out of the Brothers Sporting attack while Hiran hit a sparkling 39 n.o.

Having won the President's Trophy, the Lanka Colts next faced the mighty Falcon side in the last match



Colts' skipper Hiran Fernando (right) receives the President's Trophy from Mohammed Saleh Burud.

of the GCL. Having been told that a victory with bonus points would ensure them of the League title, the Colts decided to field first.

After a cautious start the Falcon openers Zahid Butt and Amin cut loose and runs started to pile on at the rate of 7 runs per over, with the Colts fielders obviously feeding the effect of the sweltering heat. Zahid was howled by the left-arm Rohan after scoring 50, Amin who was cautious after being struck on the ear by a Nakala houncer gradually opened out with the spinner coming on. With the off and on drives being his speciality, he knocked up a superb 112 before

being caught at mid-wicket by Hiran off Nakala. With Razak adding a late flourish to end up on 27 n.o., Falcon ended their innings on 219 for 4 off 30 overs.

Requiring seven runs per over for victory, Colts openers Nakala and Ramzan scored 65 runs in just 5 overs. Before Nakala was adjusted lbw by umpire Anjum after hitting 30 runs.

With Chris and Hiran snapped up by Amin for 12 and 11 runs respectively, the Colts appeared to be on the decline. Ramzan with 39 joined forces with Roville Goonasekera who in his last match in



Hiran (right) and Asad Baig (2nd left) hold the GCL trophy after receiving it from Mohammed Saleh Burud.

Kuwait, raised the Colts tempo before holding out to long off for 17 valuable runs.

Useful contributions from Ralph and Solomonse kept the pendulum swinging Colts way before handing over to Senaka Perera, who blasted his way through to a brilliant 66 n.o., with his side clearly under pressure.

Senaka was given valuable support by 'rookie' Vimal who played with great maturity, to notch up 2 boundaries in a match winning 16 n.o., in a Colts total of 221 for 8 in 27.2 overs.

Having won the match with maximum bonus points, Colts shared

the title with Evergreen. The Evergreen skipper, Asad Baig, praised the Colts for their outstanding performance.

Nakala of the Lanka Colts was awarded the prize for the Best Batsman of the Tournament, while Chris, also of Colts, was the Man of the Match award for his performance in the President's Trophy final. The award for the highest individual went to M. Iqbal of Evergreen who scored 195 against the Lanka Lions.

Mohammed Saleh Burud presented the trophies to the winning teams.

(Also See Page 21)

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